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# Decision Model and Notation

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# Preface

## OMG

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The type styles shown below are used in this document to distinguish programming statements from ordinary English. However, these conventions are not used in tables or section headings where no distinction is necessary.

Times/Times New Roman - 10 pt.: Standard body text

**Helvetica/Arial - 10 pt. Bold:** OMG Interface Definition Language (OMG IDL) and syntax elements.

**Courier/Courier New - 10 pt. Bold:** Programming language elements.

Courier - 12 pt.: Name of modeling element (class or association)

**Arial - 12pt.:** syntax element.

Arial - 10 pt.: Examples and non-normative remarks

Helvetica/Arial - 10 pt: Exceptions

# 1 Scope

The primary goal of **DMN** is to provide a common notation that is readily understandable by all business users, from the business analysts needing to create initial decision requirements and then more detailed decision models, to the technical developers responsible for automating the decisions in processes, and finally, to the business people who will manage and monitor those decisions. **DMN** creates a standardized bridge for the gap between the business decision design and decision implementation. **DMN** notation is designed to be useable alongside the standard **BPMN** business process notation.

Another goal is to ensure that decision models are interchangeable across organizations via an XML representation.

The authors have brought forth expertise and experience from the existing decision modeling community and has sought to consolidate the common ideas from these divergent notations into a single standard notation.

## 2 Conformance

### 2.1 Conformance levels

Software may claim compliance or conformance with **DMN 1.0** if and only if the software fully matches the applicable compliance points as stated in the specification. Software developed only partially matching the applicable compliance points may claim that the software was based on this specification, but may not claim compliance or conformance with this specification.

The specification defines three levels of conformance, namely **Conformance Level 1**, **Conformance Level 2** and **Conformance Level 3**.

An implementation claiming conformance to Conformance Level 1 is not required to support Conformance Level 2 or Conformance Level 3. An implementation claiming conformance to Conformance Level 2 is not required to support Conformance Level 3.

An implementation claiming conformance to **Conformance Level 1** SHALL comply with all of the specifications set forth in clauses 6 (Decision Requirements), 7 (Decision Logic) and 8 (Decision Table) of this document. An implementation claiming conformance to Conformance Level 1 is never required to interpret expressions (modeled as an Expression elements) in decision models. However, to the extent that an implementation claiming conformance to Conformance Level 1 provides an interpretation to an expression, that interpretation SHALL be consistent with the semantics of expressions as specified in clause 7.

An implementation claiming conformance to **Conformance Level 2** SHALL comply with all of the specifications set forth in clauses 6 (Decision Requirements), 7 (Decision Logic) and 8 (Decision Table) of this document. In addition it is required to interpret expressions in the simple expression language (S-FEEL) specified in clause 9.

An implementation claiming conformance to **Conformance Level 3** SHALL comply with all of the specifications set forth in clauses 6 (Decision Requirements), 7 (Decision Logic), 8 (Decision Table) and 10 (Expression language) of this document. Notice that the simple expression language that is specified in clause 9 is a subset of FEEL, and that, therefore, an implementation claiming conformance to Conformance Level 3 can also claim conformance to Conformance Level 2 (and to Conformance Level 1).

In addition, an implementation claiming conformance to any of the three **DMN 1.0** conformance levels SHALL comply with all of the requirements set forth in Clause 2.2.

### 2.2 General conformance requirements

#### 2.2.1 Visual appearance

A key element of **DMN** is the choice of shapes and icons used for the graphical elements identified in this specification. The intent is to create a standard visual language that all decision modelers will recognize and understand. An implementation that creates and displays decision model diagrams SHALL use the graphical elements, shapes, and markers illustrated in this specification.

There is flexibility in the size, color, line style, and text positions of the defined graphical elements, except where otherwise specified.

The following extensions to a **DMN** Diagram are permitted:

- New markers or indicators MAY be added to the specified graphical elements. These markers or indicators could be used to highlight a specific attribute of a **DMN** element or to represent a new subtype of the corresponding concept.
- A new shape representing a new kind of artifact MAY be added to a Diagram, but the new shape SHALL NOT conflict with the shape specified for any other **DMN** element or marker.

- Graphical elements MAY be colored, and the coloring may have specified semantics that extend the information conveyed by the element as specified in this standard.
- The line style of a graphical element MAY be changed, but that change SHALL NOT conflict with any other line style required by this specification.

An extension SHALL NOT change the specified shape of a defined graphical element or marker (e.g., changing a dashed line into a plain line, changing a square into a triangle, or changing rounded corners into squared corners).

## 2.2.2 Decision semantics

This specification defines many semantic concepts used in defining decisions and associates them with graphical elements, markers, and connections.

To the extent that an implementation provides an interpretation of some **DMN** diagram element as a semantic specification of the associated concept, the interpretation SHALL be consistent with the semantic interpretation herein specified.

## 2.2.3 Attributes and model associations

This specification defines a number of attributes and properties of the semantic elements represented by the graphical elements, markers, and connections. Some attributes are specified as mandatory, but have no representation or only optional representation. And some attributes are specified as optional.

For every attribute or property that is specified as mandatory, a conforming implementation SHALL provide some mechanism by which values of that attribute or property can be created and displayed. This mechanism SHALL permit the user to create or view these values for each **DMN** element specified to have that attribute or property.

Where a graphical representation for that attribute or property is specified as required, that graphical representation SHALL be used. Where a graphical representation for that attribute or property is specified as optional, the implementation MAY use either a graphical representation or some other mechanism.

If a graphical representation is used, it SHALL be the representation specified. Where no graphical representation for that attribute or property is specified, the implementation MAY use either a graphical representation or some other mechanism. If a graphical representation is used, it SHALL NOT conflict with the specified graphical representation of any other **DMN** element.

## 3 References

### 3.1 Normative

BMM

- *Business Motivation Model (BMM), Version 1.2*, OMG Document number: formal/2014-05-01, May 2014  
<http://www.omg.org/spec/BMM/1.2>

BPMN 2.0

- *Business Process Model and Notation, version 2.0*, OMG Document Number: formal/2011-01-03, January 2011  
<http://www.omg.org/spec/BPMN/2.0>

IEEE 754

- *IEEE 754-2008, IEEE Standard for Floating-Point Arithmetic*, International Electrical and Electronics Engineering Society, December, 2008  
<http://www.techstreet.com/ieee/searches/5835853>

ISO 8601

- *ISO 8601:2004, Data elements and interchange formats -- Information interchange -- Representation of dates and times*, International Organization for Standardization, 2004  
[http://www.iso.org/iso/home/store/catalogue\\_tc/catalogue\\_detail.htm?csnumber=40874](http://www.iso.org/iso/home/store/catalogue_tc/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=40874)

ISO EBNF

- *ISO/IEC 14977:1996, Information technology -- Syntactic metalanguage -- Extended BNF*, International Organization for Standardization, 1996  
[http://standards.iso.org/ittf/PubliclyAvailableStandards/s026153\\_ISO\\_IEC\\_14977\\_1996\(E\).zip](http://standards.iso.org/ittf/PubliclyAvailableStandards/s026153_ISO_IEC_14977_1996(E).zip)

Java

- *The Java Language Specification, Java SE 7 Edition*, Oracle Corporation, February 2013  
<http://docs.oracle.com/javase/specs/jls/se7/jls7.pdf>

PMML

- *Predictive Model Markup Language (PMML)*, Data Mining Group, May, 2014  
<http://www.dmg.org/v4-2-1/GeneralStructure.html>

RFC 3986

- *RFC 3986: Uniform Resource Identifier (URI): Generic Syntax*. Berners-Lee, T., Fielding, R., and Masinter, L., editors. Internet Engineering Task Force, 2005. <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3986.txt>

UML

- *Unified Modeling Language (UML), v2.4.1*, OMG Document Number formal/2011-08-05, August 2011  
<http://www.omg.org/spec/UML/2.4.1>

## XBASE

- *XML Base (Second Edition)*. Jonathan Marsh and Richard Tobin, editors. World Wide Web Consortium, 2009.  
<http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlbase/>

## XML

- *Extensible Markup Language (XML) 1.0 (Fifth Edition)*, W3C Recommendation 26 November 2008  
<http://www.w3.org/TR/xml/>

## XML Schema

- *XML Schema Part 2: Datatypes Second Edition*, W3C Recommendation 28 October 2004  
<http://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema-2/>

## XPath Data Model

- *XQuery 1.0 and XPath 2.0 Data Model (XDM) (Second Edition)*, W3C Recommendation 14 December 2010  
<http://www.w3.org/TR/xpath-datamodel/>

## XQuery and XPath Functions and Operators

- *XQuery 1.0 and XPath 2.0 Functions and Operators (Second Edition)*, W3C Recommendation 14 December 2010  
<http://www.w3.org/TR>xpath-functions/XQuery>

## 3.2 Non-normative

### JSON

- *ECMA-404 The JSON Data Interchange Standard*, European Computer Manufacturers Association, October, 2013  
<http://www.ecma-international.org/publications/files/ECMA-ST/ECMA-404.pdf>

### PRR

- *Production Rule Representation (PRR), Version 1.0*, December 2009, OMG document number formal/2009-12-01  
<http://www.omg.org/spec/PRR/1.0/>

### RIF

- *RIF production rule dialect*, Ch. de Sainte Marie et al. (Eds.) , W3C Recommendation, 22 June 2010.  
<http://www.w3.org/TR/rif-prd/>

### SBVR

- *Semantics of Business Vocabulary and Business Rules (SBVR)*, V1.2, OMG document number formal/2013-11-04, November 2013  
<http://www.omg.org/spec/SBVR/1.2/>

## SQL

- *ISO/IEC 9075-11:2011, Information technology -- Database languages -- SQL -- Part 11: Information and Definition Schemas (SQL/Schemata)*, International Organization for Standardization, 2011  
[http://www.iso.org/iso/home/store/catalogue\\_tc/catalogue\\_detail.htm?csnumber=5368](http://www.iso.org/iso/home/store/catalogue_tc/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=5368)

## XPath

- *XML Path Language (XPath) Version 1.0*, W3C Recommendation 16 November 1999  
<http://www.w3.org/TR/xpath>

## 4 Additional Information

### 4.1 Acknowledgements

The following companies submitted this specification:

- Decision Management Solutions
- Escape Velocity
- FICO
- International Business Machines
- Oracle

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- KU Leuven
- Knowledge Partners International
- Model Systems
- TIBCO

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In addition, the following persons contributed valuable ideas and feedback that improved the content and the quality of this specification: Bas Janssen, Robert Lario, Pete Rivett.

### 4.2 IPR and Patents

The submitters contributed this work to OMG on a RF on RAND basis.

### 4.3 Guide to the Specification

Clause 1 summarizes the goals of the specification.

Clause 2 defines three levels of conformance with the specification: Conformance Level 1, Conformance Level 2 and Conformance Level 3.

Clause 3 lists normative references.

Clause 4 provides additional information useful in understanding the background to and structure of the specification.

Clause 5 discusses the scope and uses of **DMN** and introduces the principal concepts, including the two levels of **DMN**: the decision requirements level and the decision logic level.

Clause 6 defines the decision requirements level of **DMN**: the Decision Requirements Graph (DRG) and its notation as a Decision Requirements Diagram (DRD).

Clause 7 introduces the principles by which decision logic may be associated with elements in a DRG: i.e. how the decision requirements level and decision logic level are related to each other.

Clauses 8, 9 and 10 then define the decision logic level of **DMN**:

- Clause 8 defines the notation and syntax of Decision Tables in **DMN**
- Clause 9 defines S-FEEL: a subset of FEEL to support decision tables

- Clause 10 defines the full syntax and semantics of FEEL: the default expression language used for the Decision Logic level of **DMN**.

Clause 11 provides an example of **DMN** used to model human and automated decision-making in a simple business process.

Clause 12 addresses exchange formats and provides references to machine-readable files (XSD and XMI).

The Annexes provide non-normative background information:

- Annex A discusses the relationship between **DMN** and **BPMN**
- Annex B suggests principles for encapsulating decision models as decision services
- Annex C provides a glossary of terms.

# 5 Introduction to DMN

## 5.1 Context

The purpose of **DMN** is to provide the constructs that are needed to model decisions, so that organizational decision-making can be readily depicted in diagrams, accurately defined by business analysts, and (optionally) automated.

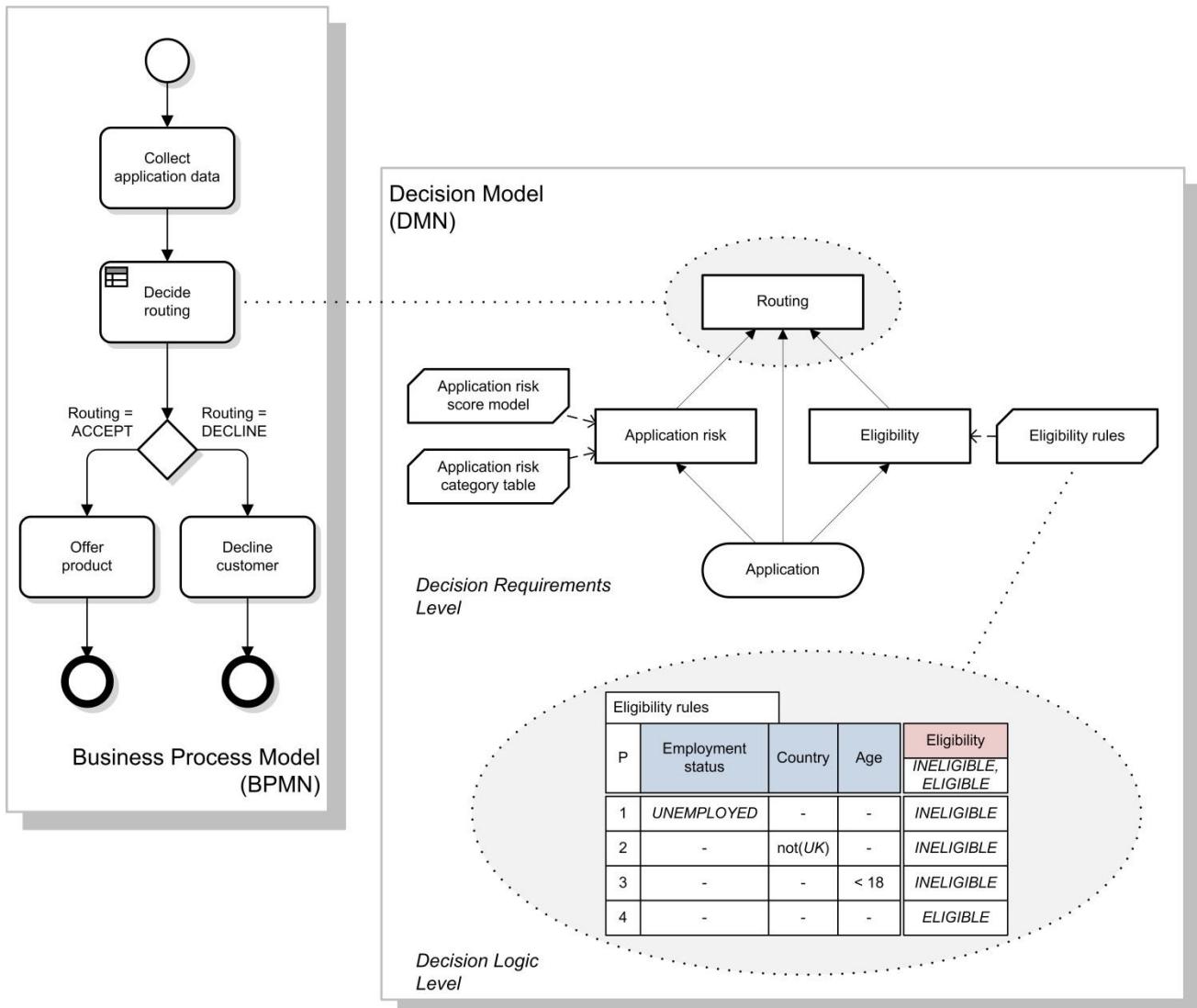
Decision-making is addressed from two different perspectives by existing modeling standards:

- Business process models (e.g. **BPMN**) can describe the coordination of decision-making within business processes by defining specific tasks or activities within which the decision-making takes place.
- Decision logic (e.g. PRR, PMML) can define the specific logic used to make individual decisions, for example as business rules, decision tables, or executable analytic models.

However, a number of authors (including members of the submission team) have observed that decision-making has an internal structure which is not conveniently captured in either of these modeling perspectives. Our intention is that **DMN** will provide a third perspective – the Decision Requirements Diagram – forming a bridge between business process models and decision logic models:

- Business process models will define tasks within business processes where decision-making is required to occur
- Decision Requirements Diagrams will define the decisions to be made in those tasks, their interrelationships, and their requirements for decision logic
- Decision logic will define the required decisions in sufficient detail to allow validation and/or automation.

Taken together, Decision Requirements Diagrams and decision logic can provide a complete decision model which complements a business process model by specifying in detail the decision-making carried out in process tasks. The relationships between these three aspects of modeling are shown in Figure 1.



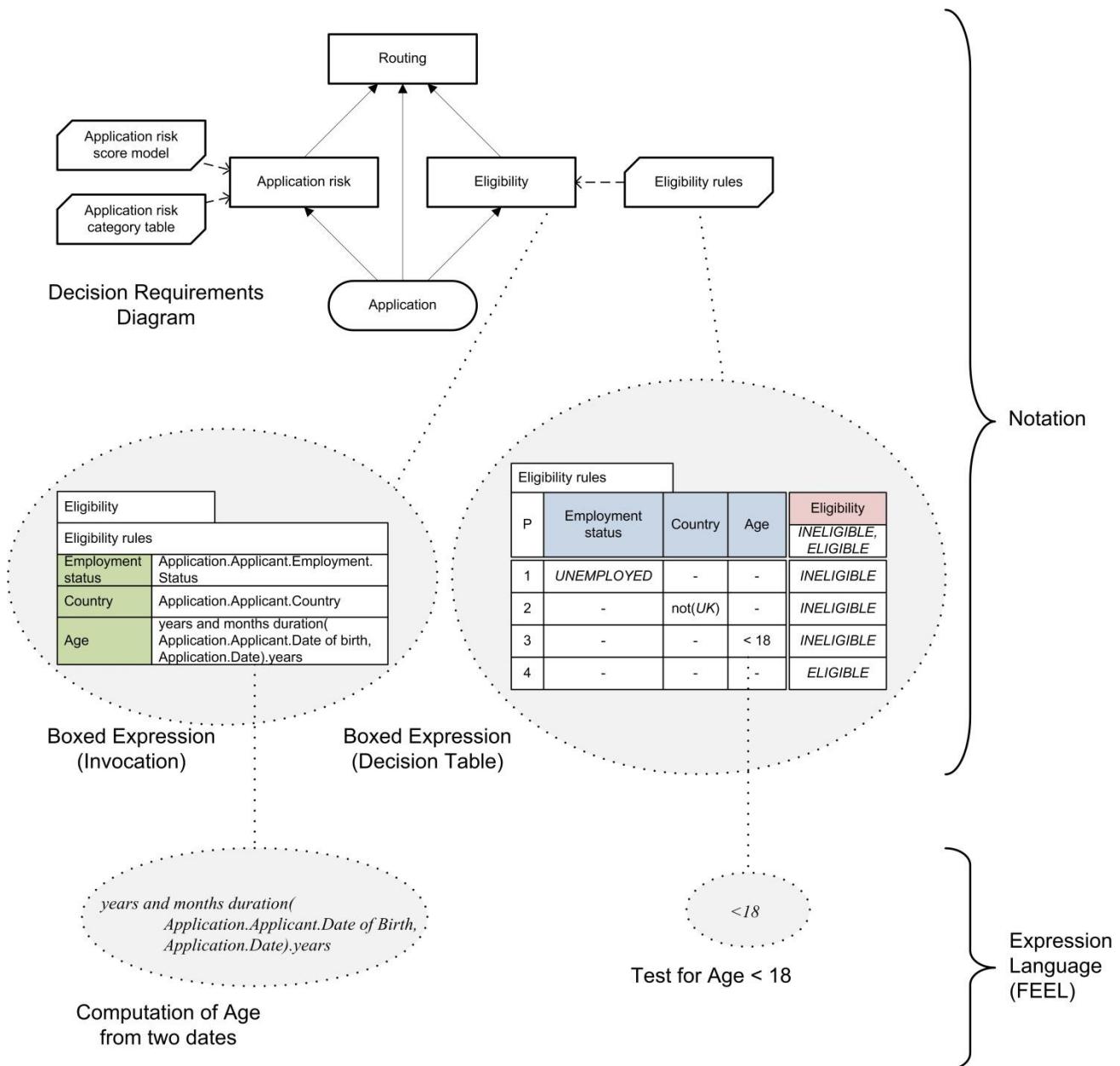
**Figure 1: Aspects of modeling**

The resulting connected set of models will allow detailed modeling of the role of business rules and analytic models in business processes, cross-validation of models, top-down process design and automation, and automatic execution of decision-making (e.g. by a business process management system calling a decision service deployed from a business rules management system).

Although Figure 1 shows a linkage between a business process model and a decision model for the purposes of explaining the relationship between **DMN** and other standards, it must be stressed that **DMN** is not dependent on **BPMN**, and its two levels – decision requirements and decision logic – may be used independently or in conjunction to model a domain of decision-making without any reference to business processes (see clause 5.2).

**DMN** will provide constructs spanning both decision requirements and decision logic modeling. For decision requirements modeling, it defines the concept of a Decision Requirements Graph (DRG) comprising a set of elements and their connection rules, and a corresponding notation: the Decision Requirements Diagram (DRD). For decision logic modeling it provides a language called FEEL for defining and assembling decision tables, calculations, if/then/else logic, simple data structures, and externally defined logic from Java and PMML into executable expressions with formally defined semantics. It also provides a notation for decision logic (“boxed expressions”) allowing components of the decision logic level to be

drawn graphically and associated with elements of a Decision Requirements Diagram. The relationship between these constructs is shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 2: DMN Constructs**

## 5.2 Scope and uses of DMN

Decision modeling is carried out by business analysts in order to understand and define the decisions used in a business or organization. Such decisions are typically operational decisions made in day-to-day business processes, rather than the strategic decision-making for which fewer rules and representations exist.

Three uses of **DMN** can be discerned in this context:

1. For modeling human decision-making
2. For modeling the requirements for automated decision-making
3. For implementing automated decision-making.

### 5.2.1 Modeling human decision-making

**DMN** may be used to model the decisions made by personnel within an organization. Human decision-making can be broken down into a network of interdependent constituent decisions, and modeled using a DRD. The decisions in the DRD would probably be described at quite a high level, using natural language rather than decision logic.

Knowledge sources may be defined to model governance of decision-making by people (e.g. a manager), regulatory bodies (e.g. an ombudsman), documents (e.g. a policy booklet) or bodies of legislation (e.g. a government statute). These knowledge sources may be linked together, for example to show that a decision is governed (a) by a set of regulations defined by a regulatory body, and (b) by a company policy document maintained by a manager.

Business knowledge models may be used to represent specific areas of business knowledge drawn upon when making decisions. This will allow **DMN** to be used as a tool for formal definition of requirements for knowledge management. Business knowledge models may be linked together to show the interdependencies between areas of knowledge (in a manner similar to that used in the existing technique of [Knowledge Structure Mapping](#)). Knowledge sources may be linked to the business knowledge models to indicate how the business knowledge is governed or maintained, for example to show that a set of business policies (the business knowledge model) is defined in a company policy document (the knowledge source).

In some cases it may be possible to define specific rules or algorithms for the decision-making. These may be modeled using decision logic (e.g. business rules or decision tables) to specify business knowledge models in the DRD, either descriptively (to record how decisions are currently made, or how they were made during a particular period of observation) or prescriptively (to define how decisions should be made, or will be made in the future).

Decision-making modeled in **DMN** may be mapped to tasks or activities within a business process modeled using **BPMN**. At a high level, a collaborative decision-making task may be mapped to a subset of decisions in a DRD representing the overall decision-making behavior of a group or department. At a more detailed level, it is possible to model the interdependencies between decisions made by a number of individuals or groups using **BPMN** collaborations: each participant in the decision-making is represented by a separate pool in the collaboration and a separate DRD in the decision model. Decisions in those DRDs are then mapped to tasks in the pools, and input data in the DRDs are mapped to the content of messages passing between the pools.

The combined use of **BPMN** and **DMN** thus provides a graphical language for describing multiple levels of human decision-making within an organization, from activities in business processes down to a detailed definition of decision logic. Within this context **DMN** models will describe collaborative organizational decisions, their governance, and the business knowledge required for them.

### 5.2.2 Modeling requirements for automated decision-making

The use of **DMN** for modeling the requirements for automated decision-making is similar to its use in modeling human decision-making, except that it is entirely prescriptive, rather than descriptive, and there is more emphasis on the detailed decision logic.

For full automation of decisions, the decision logic must be complete, i.e. capable of providing a decision result for any possible set of values of the input data.

However, partial automation is more common, where some decision-making remains the preserve of personnel. Interactions between human and automated decision-making may be modeled using collaborations as above, with separate pools for human and automated decision-makers, or more simply by allocating the decision-making to separate tasks in the business process model, with user tasks for human decision-making and business rule tasks for automated decision-making. So, for example, an automated business rules task might decide to refer some cases to a human reviewer; the decision logic for the automated task needs to be specified in full but the reviewer's decision-making could be left unspecified.

Once decisions in a DRD are mapped to tasks in a **BPMN** business process flow, it is possible to validate across the two levels of models. For example, it is possible to verify that all input data in the DRDs are provided by previous tasks in the business process, and that the business process uses the results of decisions only in subsequent tasks or gateways. **DMN** models the relationships between Decisions and Business Processes so that the Decisions that must be made for a Business Process to complete can be identified and so that the specific decision-making tasks that perform or execute a Decision can be specified. In **DMN 1.0** no formal mapping of **DMN ItemDefinition** or **DMN InputData** to **BPMN DataObject** is proposed but an implementation could include such a check in a situation where such a mapping could be determined.

Together, **BPMN** and **DMN** therefore allow specification of the requirements for automated decision-making and its interaction with human decision making within business processes. These requirements may be specified at any level of detail, or at all levels. The three-tier mapping between business process models, DRDs and decision logic will allow the definition of these requirements to be supported by model-based computer-aided design tools.

### 5.2.3 Implementing automated decision-making

If all decisions and business knowledge models are fully specified using decision logic, it becomes possible to execute decision models.

One possible scenario is the use of “decision services” deployed from a Business Rules Management System (BRMS) and called by a Business Process Management System (BPMS). A decision service encapsulates the decision logic supporting a DRD, providing interfaces that correspond to subsets of input data and decisions within the DRD. When called with a set of input data, the decision service will evaluate the specified decisions and return their results. The constraint in **DMN** that all decision logic is free of side-effects means that decision services will comply with SOA principles, simplifying system design.

The structure of a decision model, as visualized in the DRD, may be used as a basis for planning an implementation project. Specific project tasks may be included to cover the definition of decision logic (e.g. rule discovery using human experts, or creation of analytic models), and the implementation of components of the decision model.

Some decision logic representing the business knowledge encapsulated in decision services needs to be maintained over time by personnel responsible for the decisions, using special “knowledge maintenance interfaces”. **DMN** supports the effective design and implementation of knowledge maintenance interfaces: any business knowledge requiring maintenance should be modeled as business knowledge models in the DRD, and the responsible personnel as knowledge sources. DRDs then provide a specification of the required knowledge maintenance interfaces and their users, and the decision logic specifies the initial configuration of the business knowledge to be maintained.

Other decision logic needs to be refreshed by regular analytic modeling. The representation of business knowledge models as functions in **DMN** makes the use of analytic models in decision services very simple: any analytic model capable of representation as a function may be directly called by or imported into a decision service.

### 5.2.4 Combining applications of modeling

The three contexts described above are not mutually exclusive alternatives; a large process automation project might use **DMN** in all three ways.

First, the decision-making within the existing process might be modeled, to identify the full extent of current decision making and the areas of business knowledge involved. This “as-is” analysis provides the baseline for process improvement.

Next, the process might be redesigned to make the most effective use of both automated and human decision-making, often using collaboration between the two (e.g. using automated referrals to human decision-makers, or decision support systems which advise or constrain the user). Such a redesign involves modeling the requirements for the decision-making to occur in each process task and the roles and responsibilities of individuals or groups in the organization. This model provides a “to-be” specification of the required process and the decision-making it coordinates.

Comparison of the “as-is” and “to-be” models will indicate requirements not just for automation technology, but for change management: changes in the roles and responsibilities of personnel, and training to support new or modified business knowledge.

Finally, the “to-be” model will be implemented as executable system software. Provided the decision logic is fully specified in FEEL and/or other external logic (e.g. externally defined Java methods or PMML models), components of the decision model may be implemented directly as software components.

**DMN** does not prescribe any particular methodology for carrying out the above activities; it only supports the models used for them.

## 5.3 Basic concepts

### 5.3.1 Decision requirements level

The word “decision” has two definitions in common use: it may denote the act of choosing among multiple possible options; or it may denote the option that is chosen. In this specification, we adopt the former usage: a **decision** is the act of determining an **output** value (the chosen option), from a number of **input** values, using logic defining how the output is determined from the inputs. This **decision logic** may include one or more **business knowledge models** which encapsulate business know-how in the form of business rules, analytic models, or other formalisms. This basic structure, from which all decision models are built, is shown in Figure 3.

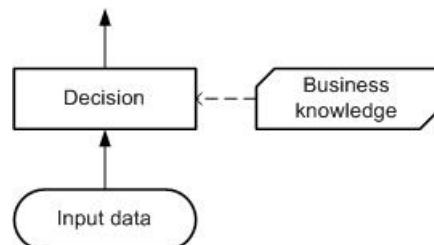


Figure 3: Basic elements of a decision model

For simplicity and generality, many of the figures in this specification show each decision as having a single associated business knowledge model, but it should be noted that **DMN** does not require this to be the case. The use of business knowledge models to encapsulate decision logic is a matter of style and methodology, and decisions may be modeled with no associated business knowledge models, or with several.

Authorities may be defined for decisions or business knowledge models, which might be (for example) domain experts responsible for defining or maintaining them, or source documents from which business knowledge models are derived, or sets of test cases with which the decisions must be consistent. These are called **knowledge sources** (see Figure 4).

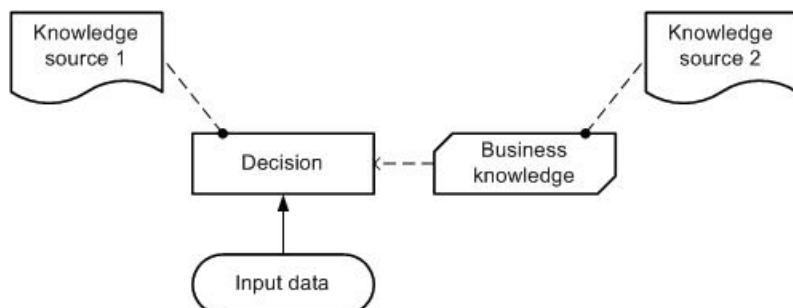
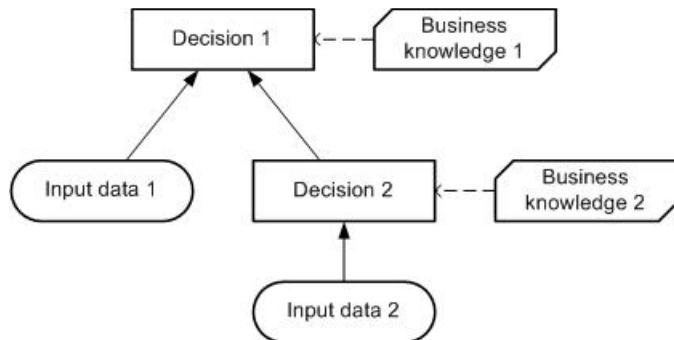


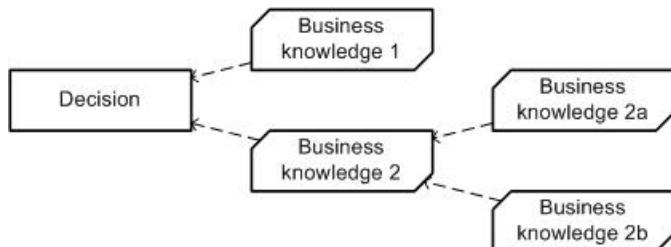
Figure 4: Knowledge sources

A decision is said to “require” its inputs in order to determine its output. The inputs may be **input data**, or the outputs of other decisions. (In either case they may be data structures, rather than just simple data items.) If the inputs of a decision Decision1 include the output of another decision Decision2, Decision1 “requires” Decision2. Decisions may therefore be connected in a network called a **Decision Requirements Graph (DRG)**, which may be drawn as a **Decision Requirements Diagram (DRD)**. A DRD shows how a set of decisions depend on each other, on input data, and on business knowledge models. A simple example of a DRD with only two decisions is shown in Figure 5.



**Figure 5: A simple Decision Requirements Diagram (DRD)**

A decision may require multiple business knowledge models, and a business knowledge model may require multiple other business knowledge models, as shown in Figure 6. This will allow (for example) the modeling of complex decision logic by combining diverse areas of business knowledge, and the provision of alternative versions of decision logic for use in different situations.



**Figure 6: Combining business knowledge models**

DRGs and their notation as DRDs are specified in detail in clause 6.

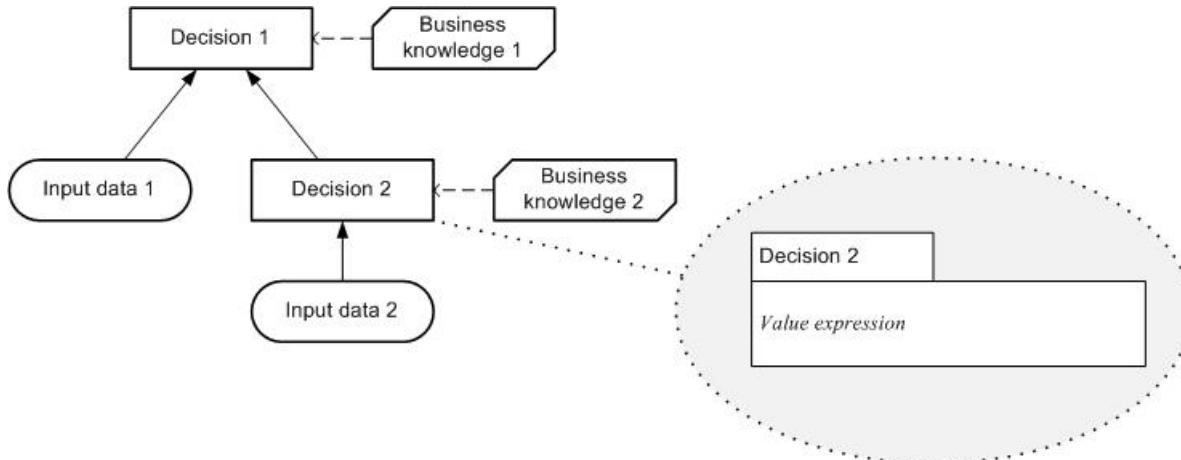
### 5.3.2 Decision logic level

The components of the decision requirements level of a decision model may be described, as they are above, using only business concepts. This level of description is often sufficient for business analysis of a domain of decision-making, to identify the business decisions involved, their interrelationships, the areas of business knowledge and data required by them, and the sources of the business knowledge. Using decision logic, the same components may be specified in greater detail, to capture a complete set of business rules and calculations, and (if desired) to allow the decision-making to be fully automated.

Decision logic may also provide additional information about how to display elements in the decision model. For example, the decision logic element for a decision table may specify whether to show the rules as rows or as columns. The decision logic element for a calculation may specify whether to line up terms vertically or horizontally.

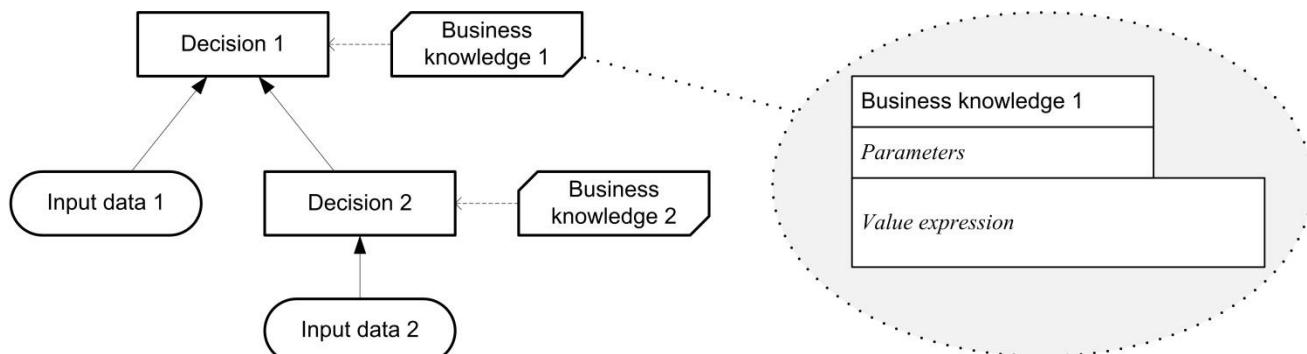
The correspondence between concepts at the decision requirements level and the decision logic level is described below. Please note that in the figures below, as in Figure 1 and Figure 2, the grey ellipses and dotted lines are drawn only to indicate correspondences between concepts in different levels for the purposes of this introduction. They do *not* form part of the notation of **DMN**, which is formally defined in clauses 6.2, 8.2 and 10.2. It is envisaged that implementations will provide facilities for moving between levels of modeling, such as “opening”, “drilling down” or “zooming in”, but **DMN** does not specify how this should be done.

At the decision logic level, every decision in a DRG is defined using a **value expression** which specifies how the decision’s output is determined from its inputs. At that level, the decision is considered to *be* the evaluation of the expression. The value expression may be notated using a **boxed expression**, as shown in Figure 7.



**Figure 7: Decision and corresponding value expression**

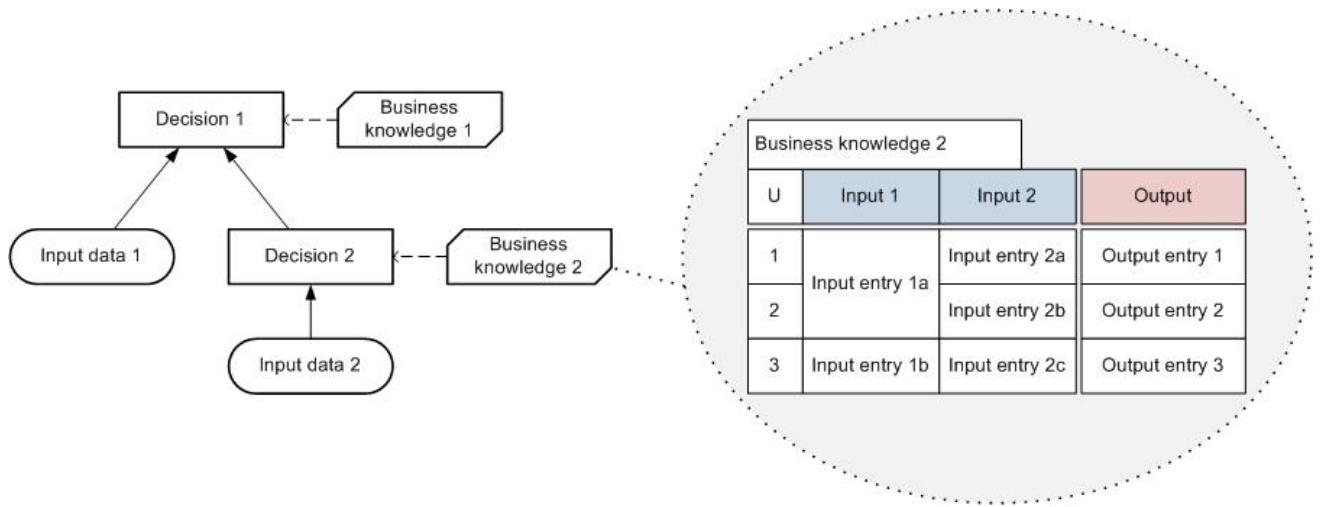
In the same way, at the decision logic level, a business knowledge model is defined using a value expression that specifies how an output is determined from a set of inputs. In a business knowledge model, the value expression is encapsulated as a function definition, which may be invoked from a decision’s value expression. The interpretation of business knowledge models as functions in **DMN** means that the combination of business knowledge models as in Figure 6 has the clear semantics of functional composition. The value expression of a business knowledge model may be notated using a **boxed function definition**, as shown in Figure 8.



**Figure 8: Business knowledge model and corresponding value expression**

A business knowledge model may contain any decision logic which is capable of being represented as a function. This will allow the import of many existing decision logic modeling standards (e.g. for business rules and analytic models) into **DMN**.

An important format of business knowledge, specifically supported in **DMN**, is the Decision Table. Such a business knowledge model may be notated using a **Decision Table**, as shown in Figure 9.



**Figure 9: Business knowledge model and corresponding decision table**

In most cases, the logic of a decision is encapsulated into business knowledge models, and the value expression associated with the decision specifies how the business knowledge models are invoked, and how the results of their invocations are combined to compute the output of the decision. The decision's value expression may also specify how the output is determined from its input entirely within itself, without invoking a business knowledge model: in that case, no business knowledge model is associated with the decision (neither at the decision requirements level nor at the decision logic level).

An expression language for defining decision logic in **DMN**, covering all the above concepts, is specified fully in clause 10. This is **FEEL**: the Friendly Enough Expression Language. The notation for Decision Tables is specified in detail in clause 8.

# 6 Requirements (DRG and DRD)

## 6.1 Introduction

The decision requirements level of a decision model in **DMN** consists of a Decision Requirements Graph (DRG) depicted in one or more Decision Requirements Diagrams (DRDs).

A DRG models a domain of decision-making, showing the most important elements involved in it and the dependencies between them. The elements modeled are decisions, areas of business knowledge, sources of business knowledge, and input data:

- A **Decision** element denotes the act of determining an output from a number of inputs, using decision logic which may reference one or more Business Knowledge Models.
- A **Business Knowledge Model** element denotes a function encapsulating business knowledge, e.g. as business rules, a decision table, or an analytic model.
- An **Input Data** element denotes information used as an input by one or more Decisions.
- A **Knowledge Source** element denotes an authority for a Business Knowledge Model or Decision.

The dependencies between these elements express three kinds of requirements: information, knowledge and authority:

- An **Information Requirement** denotes Input Data or Decision output being used as input to a Decision.
- A **Knowledge Requirement** denotes the invocation of a Business Knowledge Model by the decision logic of a Decision.
- An **Authority Requirement** denotes the dependence of a DRG element on another DRG element that acts as a source of guidance or knowledge.

DRDs may also contain any number of *artifacts* representing annotations of the diagram:

- A **Text Annotation** is modeler-entered text used for comment or explanation.
- A **Group** is an unfilled rectangle with dash-dot line style enclosing elements in a DRD.
- An **Association** is a dotted connector used to link a Text Annotation to a DRG Element.

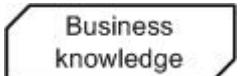
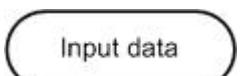
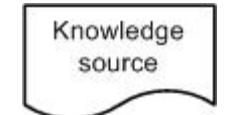
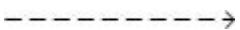
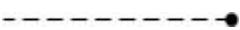
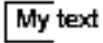
These components are summarized in Table 1 and described in more detail in clause 6.2.

A DRG is a graph composed of elements connected by requirements, and is self-contained in the sense that all the modeled requirements for any Decision in the DRG (its immediate sources of information, knowledge and authority) are present in the same DRG. It is important to distinguish this complete definition of the DRG from a DRD presenting any particular view of it, which may be a partial or filtered display: see clause 6.2.4.

## 6.2 Notation

The notation for all components of a DRD is summarized in Table 1 and described in more detail below.

**Table 1: DRD components**

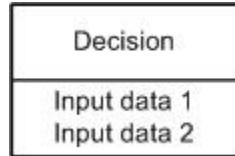
<b>Component</b>		<b>Description</b>	<b>Notation</b>
Elements	Decision	A decision denotes the act of determining an output from a number of inputs, using decision logic which may reference one or more business knowledge models.	
	Business Knowledge Model	A business knowledge model denotes a function encapsulating business knowledge, e.g. as business rules, a decision table, or an analytic model.	
	Input Data	An input data element denotes information used as an input by one or more decisions. When enclosed within a knowledge model, it denotes the parameters to the knowledge model.	
	Knowledge Source	A knowledge source denotes an authority for a business knowledge model or decision.	
Requirements	Information Requirement	An information requirement denotes input data or a decision output being used as one of the inputs of a decision	
	Knowledge Requirement	A knowledge requirement denotes the invocation of a business knowledge model	
	Authority Requirement	An authority requirement denotes the dependence of a DRD element on another DRD element that acts as a source of guidance or knowledge	
Artifacts	Text Annotation	A Text Annotation consists of a square bracket followed by modeler-entered explanatory text or comment	
	Group	A Group denotes a modeler-defined grouping relationship among the DRD shapes it encloses.	
	Association	An Association connector links a text annotation to the DRG Element it explains or comments on	

## 6.2.1 DRD Elements

### 6.2.1.1 Decision notation

A Decision is represented in a DRD as a rectangle, normally drawn with solid lines, as shown in Table 1. Implementations SHALL be able to label each Decision by displaying its Name, and MAY be able to label it by displaying other properties such as its Question or Description. If displayed, the label SHALL be different from the labels of all the DRD elements in the same DRD and SHALL be clearly inside the shape of the DRD element.

If the Listed Input Data option is exercised (see 6.2.1.3), all the Decision's requirements for Input Data SHALL be listed beneath the Decision's label and separated from it by a horizontal line, as shown in Figure 10. The listed Input Data names SHALL be clearly inside the shape of the DRD element.



**Figure 10: Decision with Listed Input Data option**

The properties of a Decision are listed and described in 6.3.6.

### 6.2.1.2 Business Knowledge Model notation

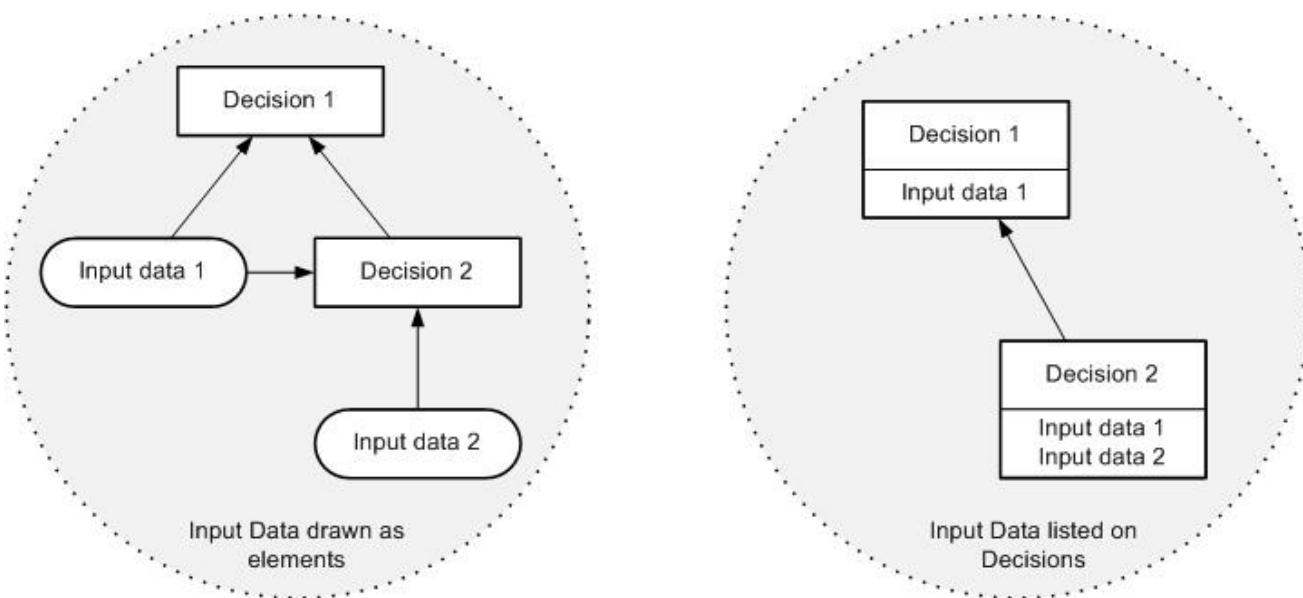
A Business Knowledge Model is represented in a DRD as a rectangle with two clipped corners, normally drawn with solid lines, as shown in Table 1. Implementations SHALL be able to label each Business Knowledge Model by displaying its Name, and MAY be able to label it by displaying other properties such as its Description. If displayed, the label SHALL be different from the labels of all the DRD elements in the same DRD and SHALL be clearly inside the shape of the DRD element.

The properties of a Business Knowledge Model are listed and described in 6.3.7.

### 6.2.1.3 Input Data notation

An Input Data element is represented in a DRD as a shape with two parallel straight sides and two semi-circular ends, normally drawn with solid lines, as shown in Table 1. Implementations SHALL be able to label each Input Data element by displaying its Name, and MAY be able to label it by displaying other properties such as its Description. If displayed, the label SHALL be different from the labels of all the DRD elements in the same DRD and SHALL be clearly inside the shape of the DRD element.

An alternative compliant way to display requirements for Input Data, especially useful when DRDs are large or complex, is that Input Data are not drawn as separate notational elements in the DRD, but are instead listed on those Decision elements which require them. For convenience in this specification this is called the "Listed Input Data" option. Implementations MAY offer this option. Figure 11 shows two equivalent DRDs, one drawing Input Data elements, the other exercising the Listed Input Data option. Note that if an Input Data element is not displayed it SHALL be listed on all Decisions which require it (unless it is deliberately hidden as discussed in 6.2.4).



**Figure 11: The Listed Input Data option**

The properties of an Input Data element are listed and described in 6.3.9.

#### 6.2.1.4 Knowledge Source notation

A Knowledge Source is represented in a DRD as a shape with three straight sides and one wavy one, normally drawn with solid lines, as shown in Table 1. Implementations SHALL be able to label each Knowledge Source element by displaying its Name, and MAY be able to label it by displaying other properties such as its Description. If displayed, the label SHALL be different from the labels of all the DRD elements in the same DRD and SHALL be clearly inside the shape of the DRD element.

The properties of a Knowledge Source element are listed and described in 6.3.10.

### 6.2.2 DRD Requirements

#### 6.2.2.1 Information Requirement notation

Information Requirements may be drawn from Input Data elements to Decisions, and from Decisions to other Decisions. They represent the dependency of a Decision on information from input data or the results of other Decisions. They may also be interpreted as data flow: a DRD displaying only Decisions, Input Data and Information Requirements is equivalent to a dataflow diagram showing the communication of information between those elements at evaluation time. The Information Requirements of a valid DRG form a directed acyclic graph.

An Information Requirement is represented in a DRD as an arrow drawn with a solid line and a solid arrowhead, as shown in Table 1. The arrow is drawn in the direction of information flow, i.e. towards the Decision that requires the information.

#### 6.2.2.2 Knowledge Requirement notation

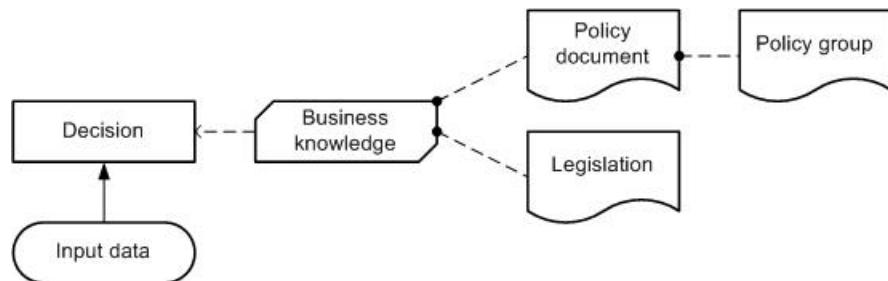
Knowledge Requirements may be drawn from Business Knowledge Models to Decisions, and from Business Knowledge Models to other Business Knowledge Models. They represent the invocation of business knowledge when making a decision. They may also be interpreted as function calls: a DRD displaying only Decisions, Business Knowledge Models and Knowledge Requirements is equivalent to a function hierarchy showing the function calls involved in evaluating the Decisions. The Knowledge Requirements of a valid DRG form a directed acyclic graph.

A Knowledge Requirement is represented in a DRD as an arrow drawn with a dashed line and an open arrowhead, as shown in Table 1. The arrows are drawn in the direction of the information flow of the result of evaluating the function, i.e. toward the element that requires the business knowledge.

### 6.2.2.3 Authority Requirement notation

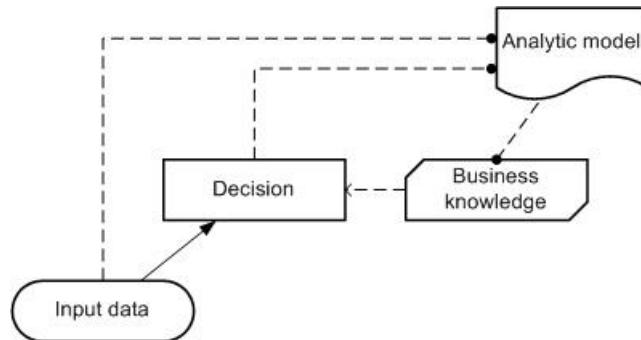
Authority Requirements may be used in two ways:

- a) They may be drawn from Knowledge Sources to Decisions, Business Knowledge Models and other Knowledge Sources, where they represent the dependence of the DRD element on the knowledge source. This might be used to record the fact that a set of business rules must be consistent with a published document (e.g. a piece of legislation or a statement of business policy), or that a specific person or organizational group is responsible for defining some decision logic, or that a decision is managed by a person or group. An example of this use of Knowledge Sources is shown in Figure 12: in this case the Business Knowledge Model requires two sources of authority – a policy document and legislation – and the policy document requires the authority of a policy group.



**Figure 12: Knowledge Sources representing authorities**

- b) They may be drawn from Input Data and Decisions to Knowledge Sources, where, in conjunction with use (a), they represent the derivation of Business Knowledge Models from instances of Input Data and Decision results, using analytics. The Knowledge Source typically represents the analytic model (or modeling process); the Business Knowledge Model represents the executable logic generated from or dependent on the model. An example of this use of a Knowledge Source is shown in Figure 13: in this case a business knowledge model is based on an analytic model which is derived from input data and the results of a dependent decision.



**Figure 13: Knowledge source representing predictive analytics**

However, the figures above are only examples. There are many other possible use cases for Authority Requirements (and since Knowledge Sources and Authority Requirements have no execution semantics their interpretation is necessarily vague), so this specification leaves the details of their application to the implementer.

An Authority Requirement is represented in a DRD as an arrow drawn with a dashed line and a filled circular head, as shown in Table 1. The arrows are drawn from the source of authority to the element governed by it.

### 6.2.3 Connection rules

The rules governing the permissible ways of connecting elements with requirements in a DRD are described in Clause 6.2.2 above and summarized in Table 2. For clarity, a simple DRD is shown for each permissible connection. In each of these diagrams, the upper (“to”) element requires the lower (“from”) element.

Note that no requirements may be drawn terminating in Input Data, that is, input data may have no requirements. Note also that the type of the requirement is uniquely determined by the types of the two elements connected.

**Table 2: Requirements connection rules**

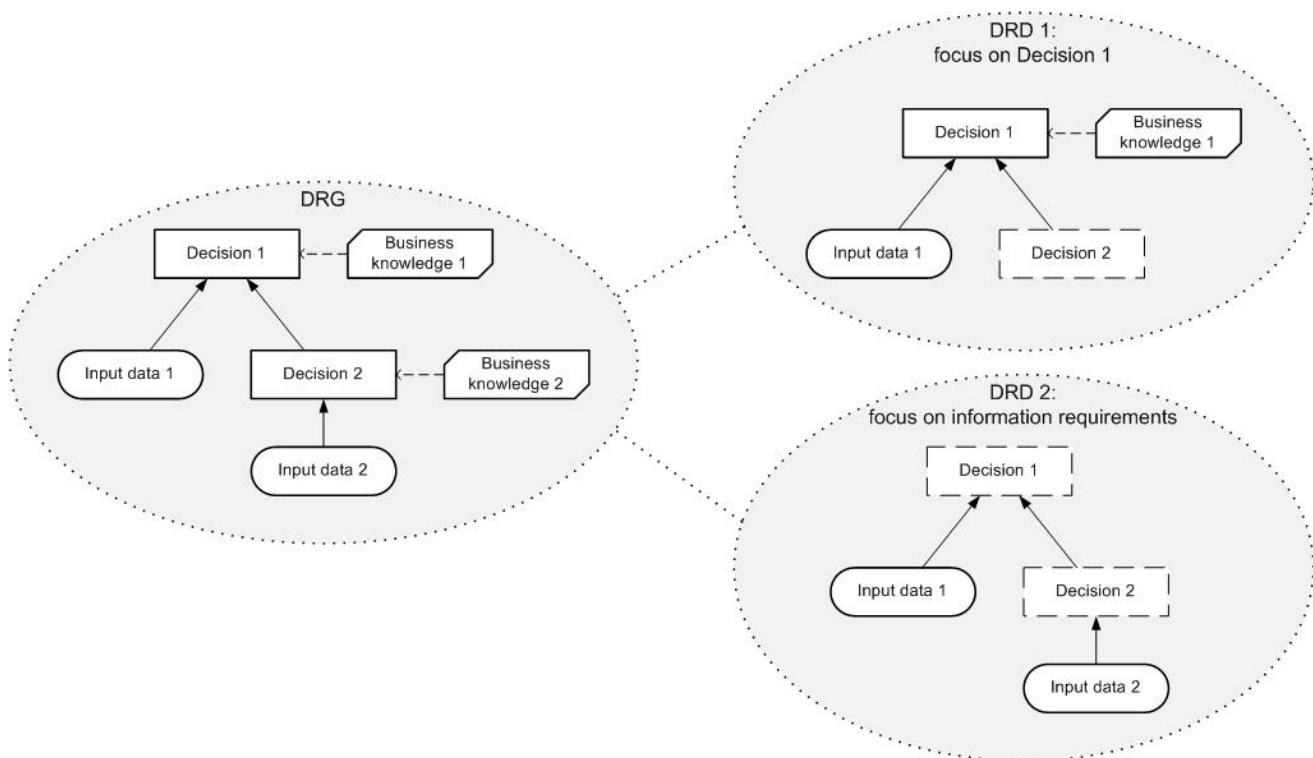
		To			
		Decision	Business Knowledge Model	Knowledge Source	Input Data
From	Decision		not allowed		not allowed
	Business Knowledge Model			not allowed	not allowed
	Knowledge Source				not allowed
	Input Data		not allowed		not allowed

## 6.2.4 Partial views and hidden information

The metamodel (see clause 6.3) provides properties for each of the DRG elements which would not normally be displayed on the DRD, but provide additional information about their nature or function. For example, for a Decision these include properties specifying which **BPMN** processes and tasks make use of the Decision. Implementations SHALL provide facilities for specifying and displaying such properties.

For any significant domain of decision-making a DRD representing the complete DRG may be a large and complex diagram. Implementations MAY provide facilities for displaying DRDs which are partial or filtered views of the DRG, e.g. by hiding categories of elements, or hiding or collapsing areas of the network. **DMN** does not specify how such views should be notated, but whenever information is hidden implementations SHOULD provide a clear visual indication that this is the case.

Two examples of DRDs providing partial views of a DRG are shown in Figure 14: DRD 1 shows only the immediate requirements of a single decision; DRD 2 shows only Information Requirements and the elements they connect. In this example, for the purposes of illustration only, the approach taken is to use a fine dashed outline for any element with some hidden requirements.



**Figure 14: DRDs as partial views of a DRG**

In **DMN 1.0**, DRDs are not represented in the metamodel and may therefore not be interchanged; a set of definitions comprising a DRG may be interchanged, and the recipient may generate any desired DRD from them which is supported by the receiving implementation.

## 6.3 Metamodel

### 6.3.1 DMN Element metamodel

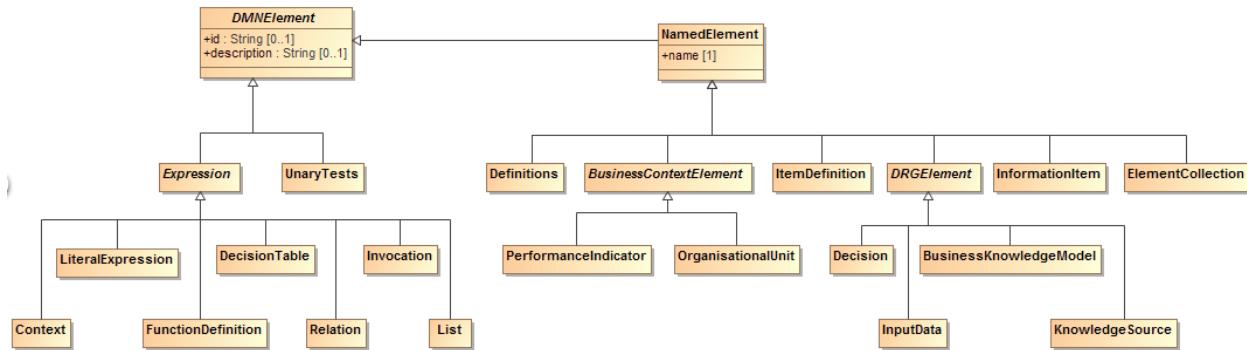


Figure 15: **DMNElement** Class Diagram

DMNElement is the abstract superclass for the decision model elements. It provides the optional attributes id and description, which are Strings and which other elements will inherit. The id of a DMNElement SHALL be unique within the decision model.

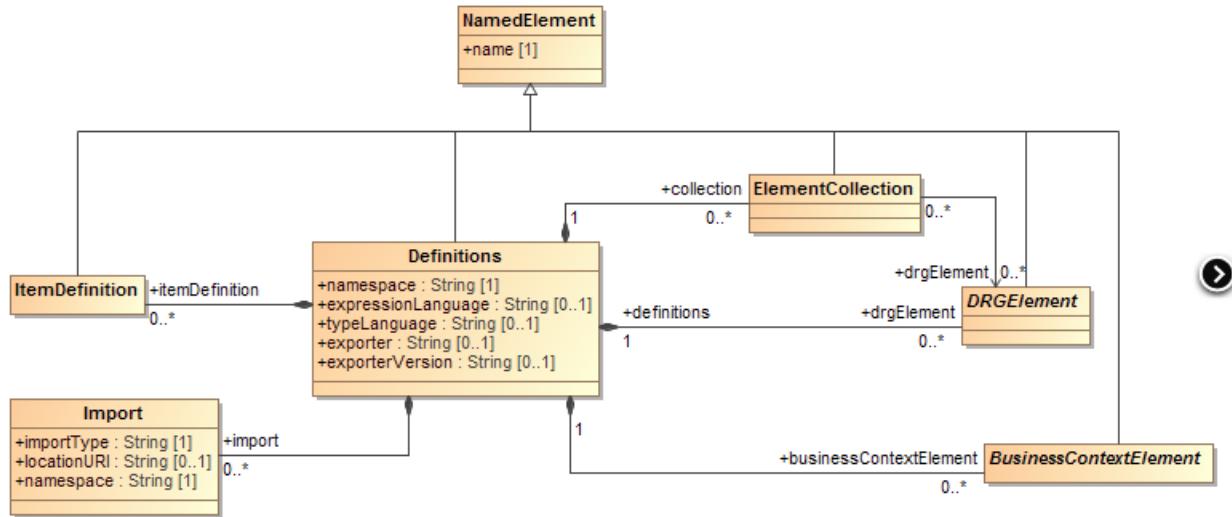
DMNElement has abstract specializations NamedElement and Expression, and concrete specialization UnaryTests. NamedElement adds the required attribute name, and includes the abstract specializations BusinessContextElement and DRGElement, as well as concrete specializations Definitions, ItemDefinition, InformationItem, and ElementCollection.

Table 3 presents the attributes and model associations of the DMNElement element.

Table 3: **DMNElement** attributes and model associations

Attribute	Description
<b>name:</b> String [0..1] (NamedElement only)	The name of this element.
<b>id:</b> String [0..1]	The string that identifies this DMNElement uniquely within its containing Definitions element.
<b>description:</b> String [0..1]	A description of this element.

## 6.3.2 Definitions metamodel



**Figure 16: Definitions Class Diagram**

The **Definitions** class is the outermost containing object for all elements of a **DMN** decision model. It defines the scope of visibility and the namespace for all contained elements. Elements that are contained in an instance of **Definitions** have their own defined life-cycle and are not deleted with the deletion of other elements. The interchange of **DMN** files will always be through one or more **Definitions**.

**Definitions** is a kind of **NamedElement**, from which an instance of **Definitions** inherits the **id** and optional **name** and **description** attributes, which are **String**s.

An instance of **Definitions** has a **namespace**, which is a **String**. The **namespace** identifies the default target namespace for the elements in the **Definitions** and follows the convention established by XML Schema.

An instance of **Definitions** may specify an **expressionLanguage**, which is a **String** that identifies the default expression language used in elements within the scope of this **Definitions**. This value may be overridden on each individual **LiteralExpression**. The language **SHALL** be specified in a URI format. The default expression language is **FEEL** (clause 10), indicated by the URI: "<http://www.omg.org/spec/FEEL/20140401>". The simple expression language **S-FEEL** (clause 9), being a subset of **FEEL**, is indicated by the same URI. **DMN** provides a URI for expression languages that are not meant to be interpreted automatically (e.g. pseudo-code that may resemble **FEEL** but is not): "<http://www.omg.org/spec/DMN/uninterpreted/20140801>".

An instance of **Definitions** may specify a **typeLanguage**, which is a **String** that identifies the default type language used in elements within the scope of this **Definitions**. For example, a **typeLanguage** value of "<http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema>" indicates that the data structures defined within that **Definitions** are, by default, in the form of XML Schema types. If unspecified, the default **typeLanguage** is **FEEL**. This value may be overridden on each individual **ItemDefinition**. The **typeLanguage** **SHALL** be specified in a URI format (the URI for **FEEL** is "<http://www.omg.org/spec/FEEL/20140401>"; the URI "<http://www.omg.org/spec/DMN/uninterpreted/20140801>" can be used to indicate that a type definition is not meant to be interpreted)).

An instance of Definitions may specify an exporter and exporterVersion, which are Strings naming the tool and version used to create the XML serialization. In standards such as BPMN, this has been found to aid in model interchange between tools.

An instance of Definitions is composed of zero or more drgElements, which are instances of DRGELEMENT, zero or more collections, which are instances of ElementCollection, zero or more itemDefinitions, which are instances of ItemDefinition and of zero or more businessContextElements, which are instances of BusinessContextElement.

It may contain any number of associated import, which are instances of Import. Imports are used to import elements defined outside of this Definitions, e.g. in other Definitions elements, and to make them available for use by elements in this Definitions.

Definitions inherits all the attributes and model associations from NamedElement. Table 4 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the Definitions element.

**Table 4: Definitions attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>namespace:</b> String	This attribute identifies the namespace associated with this Definitions and follows the convention established by XML Schema.
<b>expressionLanguage:</b> String [0..1]	This attribute identifies the expression language used in LiteralExpressions within the scope of this Definitions. The Default is FEEL (clause 10). This value MAY be overridden on each individual LiteralExpression. The language SHALL be specified in a URI format.
<b>typeLanguage:</b> String [0..1]	This attribute identifies the type language used in LiteralExpressions within the scope of this Definitions. The Default is FEEL (clause 10). This value MAY be overridden on each individual ItemDefinition. The language SHALL be specified in a URI format.
<b>exporter:</b> String [0..1]	This attribute names the tool used to export the XML serialization.
<b>exporterVersion:</b> String [0..1]	This attribute names the version of the tool used to export the XML serialization.
<b>itemDefinition:</b> ItemDefinition [*]	This attribute lists the instances of ItemDefinition that are contained in this Definitions.
<b>drgElement:</b> DRGELEMENT [*]	This attribute lists the instances of DRGELEMENT that are contained in this Definitions.

<b>businessContextElement:</b> BusinessContextElement [*]	This attribute lists the instances of BusinessContextElement that are contained in this Definitions.
<b>collection</b> ElementCollection [*]	This attribute lists the instances of ElementCollection that are contained in this Definitions.
<b>import:</b> Import [*]	This attribute is used to import externally defined elements and make them available for use by elements in this Definitions.

### 6.3.3 Import metamodel

The Import class is used when referencing external elements, either **DMN** DRGElement instances contained in other Definitions elements, or non-**DMN** elements, such as an XML Schema or a PMML file. Imports SHALL be explicitly defined.

An instance of Import has an importType, which is a String that specifies the type of import associated with the element. For example, a value of “<http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema>” indicates that the imported element is an XML schema. The **DMN** namespace indicates that the imported element is a **DMN** Definitions element.

The location of the imported element may be specified by associating an optional locationURI with an instance of Import. The locationURI is a String that SHALL be in URI format.

An instance of Import has a namespace, which is a String that identifies the namespace of the imported element.

Table 5 presents the attributes and model associations of the Import element.

**Table 5: Import attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>importType:</b> String	Specifies the style of import associated with this Import.
<b>locationURI:</b> String [0..1]	Identifies the location of the imported element. SHALL be in URI format.
<b>namespace:</b> String	Identifies the namespace of the imported element.

### 6.3.4 Element Collection metamodel

The ElementCollection class is used to define named groups of DRGElement instances. ElementCollections may be used for any purpose relevant to an implementation, for example:

- To identify the requirements subgraph of a set one or more decisions (i.e. all the elements in the closure of the requirements of the set)
- To identify the elements to be depicted on a DRD.

ElementCollection is a kind of NamedElement, from which an instance of ElementCollection inherits the id and optional name and description attributes, which are Strings. The id of an ElementCollection element SHALL be unique within the containing instance of Definitions.

An `ElementCollection` element has any number of associated `drgElements`, which are the instances of `DRGElement` that this `ElementCollection` defines together as a group. Notice that an `ElementCollection` element must reference the instances of `DRGElement` that it collects, not contain them: instances of `DRGElement` can only be contained in `Definitions` elements.

`ElementCollection` inherits all the attributes and model associations from `NamedElement`. Table 6 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the `ElementCollection` element.

**Table 6: ElementCollection attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<code>drgElement: DRGElement [*]</code>	This attribute lists the instances of <code>DRGElement</code> that this <code>ElementCollection</code> groups.

### 6.3.5 DRG Element metamodel

`DRGElement` is the abstract superclass for all **DMN** elements that are contained within `Definitions` and that have a graphical representation in a DRD. All the elements of a **DMN** decision model that are not contained directly in a `Definitions` element (specifically: all three kinds of requirement, bindings, clause and decision rules, import, and objective) SHALL be contained in an instance of `DRGElement`, or in a model element that is contained in an instance of `DRGElement`, recursively.

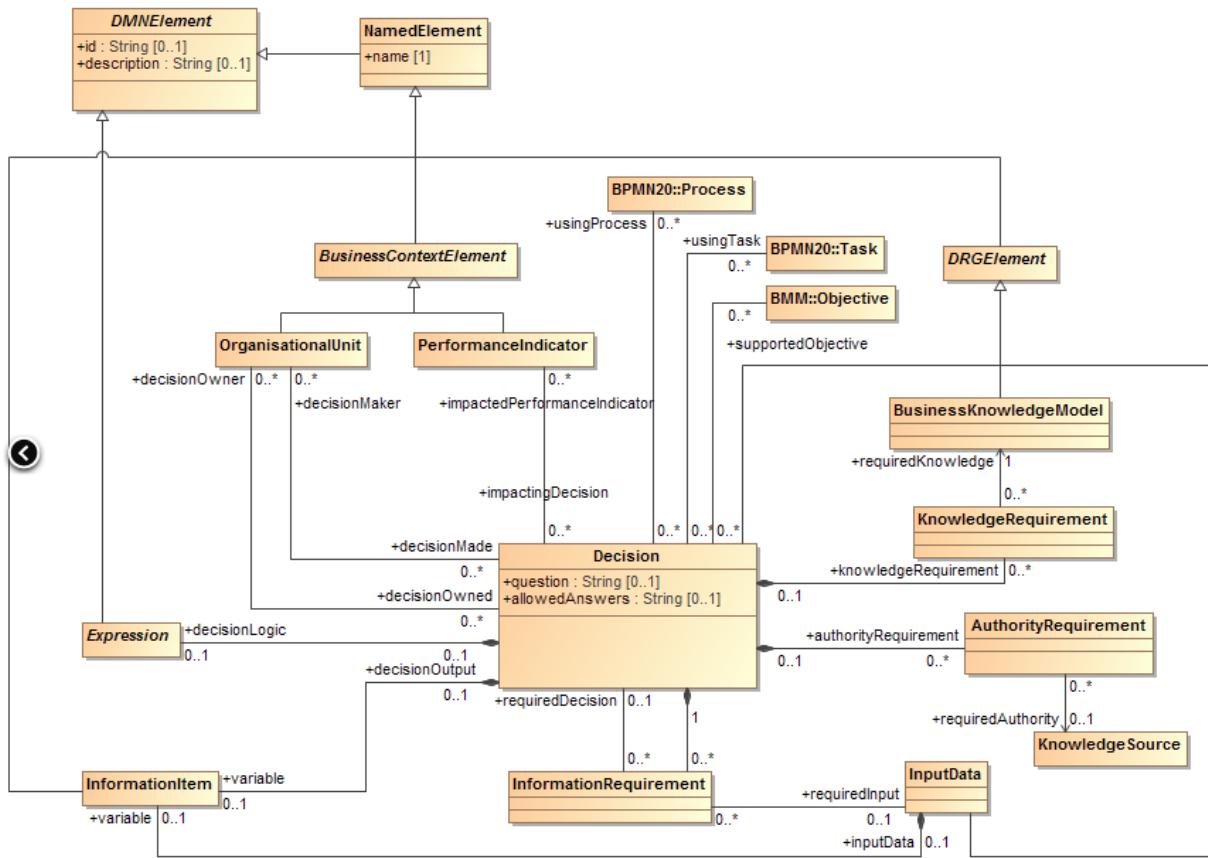
The concrete specializations of `DRGElement` are `Decision`, `InputData`, `BusinessKnowledgeModel` and `KnowledgeSource`.

`DRGElement` is a specialization of `NamedElement`, from which it inherits the `id` and optional `name` and `description` attributes. The `id` of a `DRGElement` element SHALL be unique within the containing instance of `Definitions`.

A **Decision Requirements Diagram (DRD)** is the diagrammatic representation of one or more instances of `DRGElement` and their information, knowledge and authority requirement relations. The instances of `DRGElement` are represented as the vertices in the diagram; the edges represent instances of `InformationRequirement`, `KnowledgeRequirement` or `AuthorityRequirement` (see clauses 6.3.11, 6.3.12 and 6.3.13). The connection rules are specified in clause 6.2.3).

`DRGElement` inherits all the attributes and model associations of `NamedElement`. It does not define additional attributes and model associations of the `DRGElement` element.

### 6.3.6 Decision metamodel



**Figure 17: Decision Class Diagram**

In **DMN 1.0**, the class **Decision** is used to model a decision.

**Decision** is a concrete specialization of **DRGEElement** and it inherits the mandatory **id** and optional **name** and **description** from **NamedElement**.

In addition, it may have a **question** and **allowedAnswers**, which are all **String**s. The optional **description** attribute is meant to contain a brief description of the decision-making embodied in the **Decision**. The optional **question** attribute is meant to contain a natural language question that characterizes the **Decision** such that the output of the **Decision** is an answer to the question. The optional **allowedAnswers** attribute is meant to contain a natural language description of the answers allowed for the question such as Yes/No, a list of allowed values, a range of numeric values etc.

In a DRD, an instance of **Decision** is represented by a **decision** diagram element.

A **Decision** element is composed of an optional **decisionLogic**, which is an instance of **Expression**, and of zero or more **informationRequirement**, **knowledgeRequirement** and **authorityRequirement** elements, which are instances of **InformationRequirement**, **KnowledgeRequirement** and **AuthorityRequirement**, respectively.

In addition, a Decision defines an InformationItem representing its output. This InformationItem may include an optional typeRef, which references an ItemDefinition or other type definition specifying the datatype of the possible outcomes of the Decision.

The **requirement subgraph** of a Decision element is the directed graph composed of the Decision element itself, its informationRequirements, its knowledgeRequirements, and the union of the requirement subgraphs of each requiredDecision or requiredKnowledge element: that is, the requirement subgraph of a Decision element is the closure of the informationRequirement, requiredInput, requiredDecision, knowledgeRequirement and requiredKnowledge associations starting from that Decision element.

An instance of Decision – that is, the model of a decision – is said to be **well-formed** if and only if all of its informationRequirement and knowledgeRequirement elements are well-formed. That condition entails, in particular, that the requirement subgraph of a Decision element SHALL be acyclic, that is, that a Decision element SHALL not require itself, directly or indirectly.

Besides its logical components: information requirements, decision logic etc, the model of a decision may also document a business context for the decision (see clause 6.3.7 and Figure 18).

In **DMN 1.0**, the business context for an instance of Decision is defined by its association with any number of supportedObjectives, which are instances of Objective as defined in OMG BMM, any number of impactedPerformanceIndicators, which are instances of PerformanceIndicator, any number of decisionMaker and any number of decisionOwner, which are instances of OrganisationalUnit.

In addition, an instance of Decision may reference any number of usingProcess, which are instances of Process as defined in OMG **BPMN 2.0**, and any number of usingTask, which are instances of Task as defined in OMG **BPMN 2.0**, and which are the Processes and Tasks that use the Decision element.

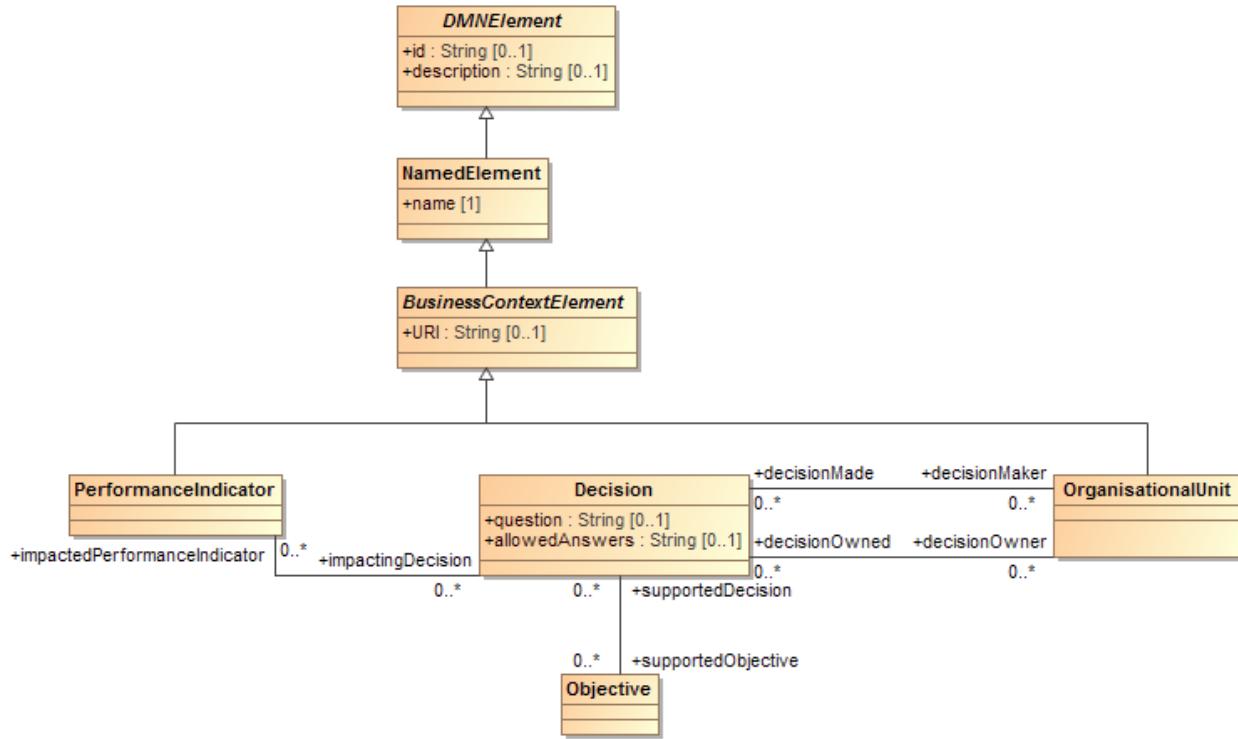
Decision inherits all the attributes and model associations from DRGElement. Table 7 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the Decision class.

**Table 7: Decision attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>question:</b> String [0..1]	A natural language question that characterizes the Decision such that the output of the Decision is an answer to the question.
<b>allowedAnswers:</b> String [0..1]	A natural language description of the answers allowed for the question such as Yes/No, a list of allowed values, a range of numeric values etc.
<b>InformationItem:</b> InformationItem	The instance of InformationItem that stores the result of this Decision.
<b>itypeRef:</b> String [0..1]	A pointer to a specification of the datatype of the possible outcome values for this Decision, either an ItemDefinition, a base type in the specified expressionLanguage, or an imported type.
<b>decisionLogic:</b> Expression [0..1]	The instance of Expression that represents the decision logic for this Decision.

<b>informationRequirement:</b> InformationRequirement [*]	This attribute lists the instances of InformationRequirement that compose this Decision.
<b>knowledgeRequirement:</b> KnowledgeRequirement [*]	This attribute lists the instances of KnowledgeRequirement that compose this Decision.
<b>authorityRequirement:</b> AuthorityRequirement [*]	This attribute lists the instances of AuthorityRequirement that compose this Decision.
<b>supportedObjective:</b> BMM::Objective [*]	This attribute lists the instances of BMM::Objective that are supported by this Decision.
<b>impactedPerformanceIndicator:</b> PerformanceIndicator [*]	This attribute lists the instances of PerformanceIndicator that are impacted by this Decision.
<b>decisionMaker:</b> OrganisationalUnit [*]	The instances of OrganisationalUnit that make this Decision.
<b>decisionOwner:</b> OrganisationalUnit [*]	The instances of OrganisationalUnit that own this Decision.
<b>usingProcesses:</b> BPMN::process [*]	This attribute lists the instances of <b>BPMN</b> ::process that require this Decision to be made.
<b>usingTasks:</b> BPMN::task [*]	This attribute lists the instances of <b>BPMN</b> ::task that make this Decision.

### 6.3.7 Business Context Element metamodel



**Figure 18: BusinessContextElement class diagram**

The abstract class **BusinessContextElement**, and its concrete specializations **PerformanceIndicator** and **OrganizationUnit** are placeholders, anticipating a definition to be adopted from other OMG meta-models, such as OMG OSM when it is further developed.

In **DMN 1.0**, **BusinessContextElement** is a specialization of **NamedElement**, from which it inherits the `id` and optional `name` and `description` attributes.

In addition, instances of **BusinessContextElements** may have a `URI`, which is a `String` that SHALL be in `URI` format, and

- an instance of **PerformanceIndicator** references any number of `impactingDecision`, which are the **Decision** elements that impact it;
- an instance of **OrganisationalUnit** references any number of `decisionMade` and of `decisionOwned`, which are the **Decision** elements that model the decisions that the organization unit makes or owns.

**BusinessContextElement** inherits all the attributes and model associations from **NamedElement**. Table 8 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the **BusinessContextElement** class.

**Table 8: BusinessContextElement attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
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<b>URI:</b> String [0..1]	The URI of this BusinessContextElement.
---------------------------	---

`PerformanceIndicator` inherits all the attributes and model associations from `BusinessContextElement`. Table 9 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the `PerformanceIndicator` class.

**Table 9: `PerformanceIndicator` attributes and model associations**

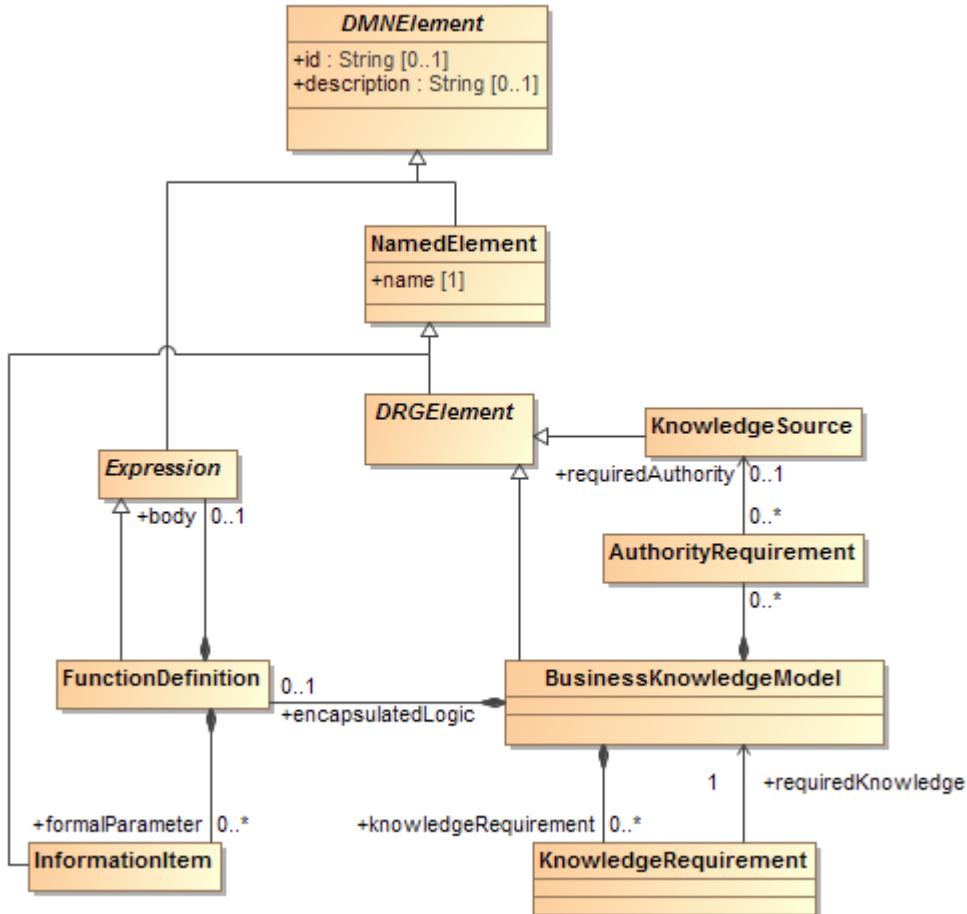
Attribute	Description
<b>impactingDecision:</b> Decision [*]	This attribute lists the instances of <code>Decision</code> that impact this <code>PerformanceIndicator</code> .

`OrganisationalUnit` inherits all the attributes and model associations from `BusinessContextElement`. Table 10 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the `OrganisationalUnit` class.

**Table 10: `OrganisationalUnit` attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>decisionMade:</b> Decision [*]	This attribute lists the instances of <code>Decision</code> that are made by this <code>OrganisationalUnit</code> .
<b>decisionOwned:</b> Decision [*]	This attribute lists the instances of <code>Decision</code> that are owned by this <code>OrganisationalUnit</code> .

### 6.3.8 Business Knowledge Model metamodel



**Figure 19: BusinessKnowledgeModel class diagram**

The business knowledge models that are associated with a decision are reusable modular expressions of all or part of their decision logic.

In **DMN 1.0**, the class **BusinessKnowledgeModel** is used to model a business knowledge model.

**BusinessKnowledgeModel** is a concrete specialization of **DRGEElement** and it inherits the mandatory `id` and optional `name` and `description` attributes from **NamedElement**.

In a DRD, an instance of **BusinessKnowledgeModel** is represented by a **business knowledge model** diagram element.

A **BusinessKnowledgeModel** element may have zero or more `knowledgeRequirement`, which are instances of **KnowledgeRequirement**, and zero or more `authorityRequirement`, which are instances of **AuthorityRequirement**.

The **requirement subgraph** of a **BusinessKnowledgeModel** element is the directed graph composed of the **BusinessKnowledgeModel** element itself, its `knowledgeRequirement` elements, and the union of the

requirement subgraphs of all the `requiredKnowledge` elements that are referenced by its `knowledgeRequirements`.

An instance of `BusinessKnowledgeModel` is said to be **well-formed** if and only if, either it does not have any `knowledgeRequirement`, or all of its `knowledgeRequirement` elements are well-formed. That condition entails, in particular, that the requirement subgraph of a `BusinessKnowledgeModel` element SHALL be acyclic, that is, that a `BusinessKnowledgeModel` element SHALL not require itself, directly or indirectly.

At the decision logic level, a `BusinessKnowledgeModel` element defines a function. It may be composed of an associated body, which is an instance of `Expression` and of zero or more `parameter`, which are instances of `InformationItem`. The body that is associated with a `BusinessKnowledgeModel` element is the reusable module of decision logic that is represented by this `BusinessKnowledgeModel` element. The parameters in a `BusinessKnowledgeModel` element are the `inputVariables` that are referenced by its body.

`BusinessKnowledgeModel` inherits all the attributes and model associations from `DRGEElement`. Table 11 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the `BusinessKnowledgeModel` class.

**Table 11: `BusinessKnowledgeModel` attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>body:</b> <code>Expression</code> [0..1]	The instance of <code>Expression</code> that describes the logic represented by this <code>BusinessKnowledgeModel</code> , that is, the body of the function that it defines.
<b>parameter:</b> <code>InformationItem</code> [*]	This attribute lists the instances of <code>InformationItem</code> that model the parameters of the function that this <code>BusinessKnowledgeModel</code> defines.
<b>knowledgeRequirement:</b> <code>KnowledgeRequirement</code> [*]	This attribute lists the instances of <code>KnowledgeRequirement</code> that compose this <code>BusinessKnowledgeModel</code> .
<b>authorityRequirement:</b> <code>AuthorityRequirement</code> [*]	This attribute lists the instances of <code>AuthorityRequirement</code> that compose this <code>BusinessKnowledgeModel</code> .

### 6.3.9 Input Data metamodel

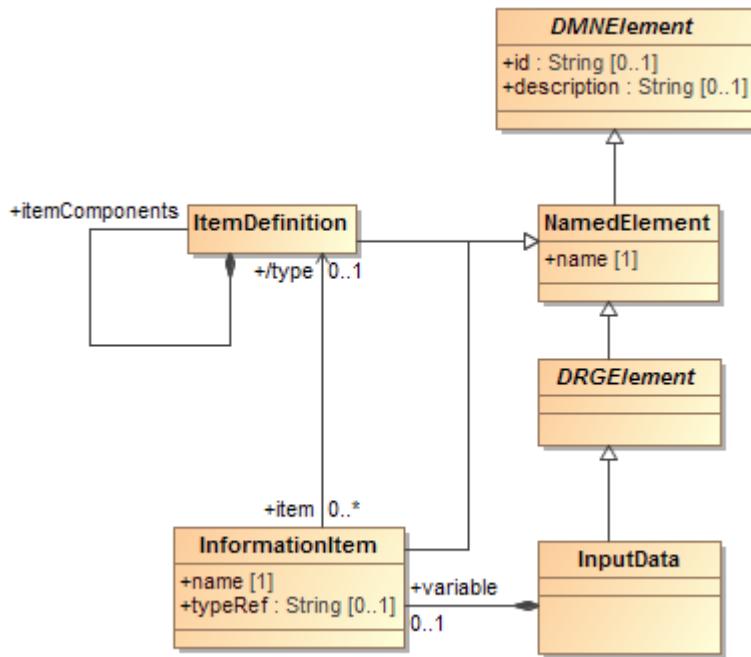


Figure 20: `InputData` class diagram

**DMN 1.0** uses the class `InputData` to model the inputs of a decision whose values are defined outside of the decision model.

`InputData` is a concrete specialization of `DRGEElement` and it inherits the mandatory `id` and optional `name` and `description` from `NamedElement`.

An instance of `InputData` defines an `InformationItem` that stores its value. This `InformationItem` may include a `typeRef` that specifies the type of data that is this `InputData` represents, either an `ItemDefinition`, base type in the specified `expressionLanguage`, or imported type.

In a DRD, an instance of `InputData` is represented by an **input data** diagram element. An `InputData` element does not have a **requirement subgraph**, and it is always **well-formed**.

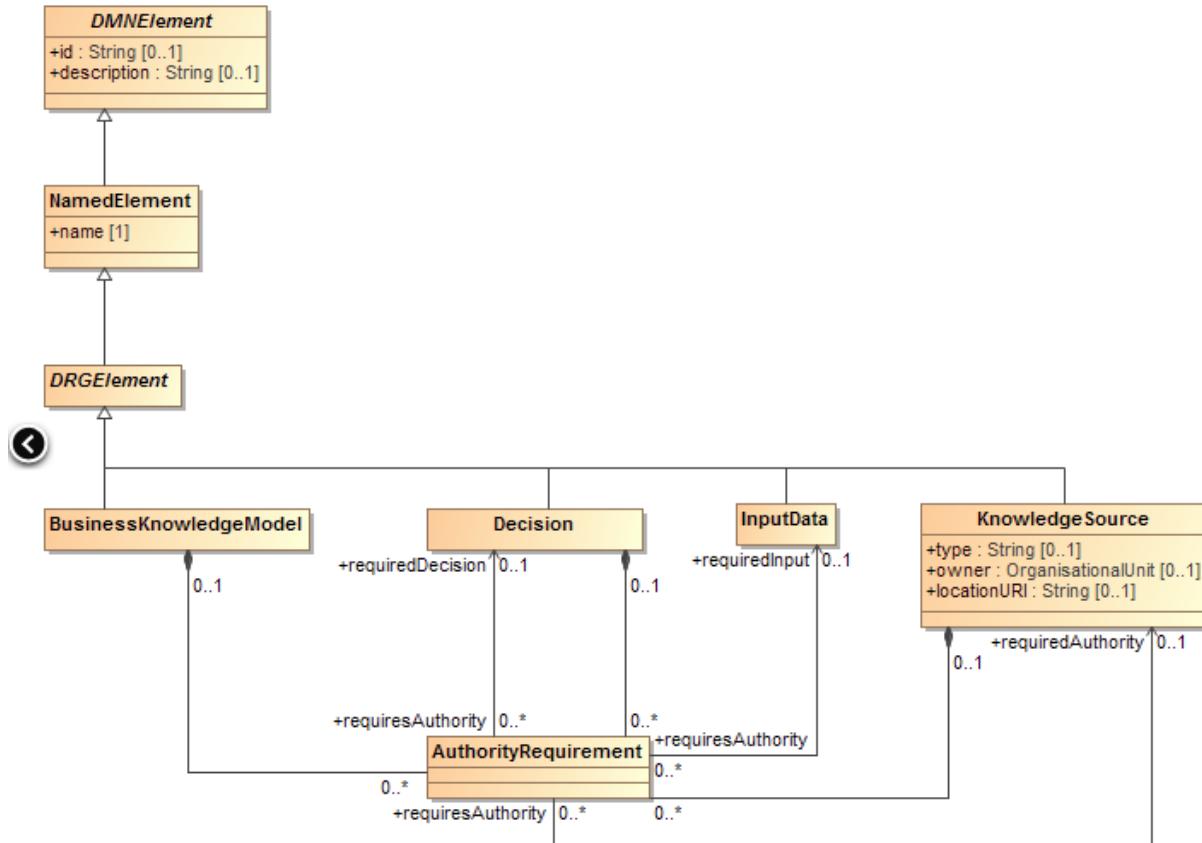
`InputData` inherits all the attributes and model associations from `DRGEElement`. Table 12 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the `InputData` class.

Table 12: `InputData` attributes and model associations

Attribute	Description
<b>InformationItem:</b> <code>InformationItem</code>	The instance of <code>InformationItem</code> that stores the result of this <code>InputData</code> .
<b>typeRef: String [0..1]</b>	A pointer to a specification of the datatype of the possible values for this <code>InputData</code> , either an <code>ItemDefinition</code> , a base

	type in the specified expressionLanguage, or an imported type..
--	---

### 6.3.10 Knowledge Source metamodel



**Figure 21. KnowledgeSource Metamodel**

In **DMN 1.0**, the class **KnowledgeSource** is used to model authoritative knowledge sources in a decision model.

In a DRD, an instance of **KnowledgeSource** is represented by a **knowledge source** diagram element.

**KnowledgeSource** is a concrete specialization of **DRGEElement**, and thus of **NamedElement**, from which it inherits the mandatory **id** and optional **name** and **description** from **NamedElement** and the mandatory **Id** from **DRGEElement**. In addition, a **KnowledgeSource** has a **locationURI**, which is a String that SHALL be specified in a URI format. It has a **type**, which is a String, and an **owner**, which is an instance of **OrganisationalUnit**. The type is intended to identify the kind of the authoritative source, e.g. Policy Document, Regulation, Analytic Insight.

A **KnowledgeSource** element is also composed of zero or more **authorityRequirement** elements, which are instances of **AuthorityRequirement**.

**KnowledgeSource** inherits all the attributes and model associations from **DRGEElement**. Table 13 presents the attributes and model associations of the **KnowledgeSource** class.

**Table 13: KnowledgeSource attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>locationURI:</b> String [0..1]	The URI where this KnowledgeSource is located. The locationURI SHALL be specified in a URI format.
<b>type:</b> String [0..1]	The type of this KnowledgeSource.
<b>owner:</b> OrganisationalUnit [0..1]	The owner of this KnowledgeSource.
<b>authorityRequirement:</b> AuthorityRequirement [*]	This attribute lists the instances of AuthorityRequirement that contribute to this KnowledgeSource.

### 6.3.11 Information Requirement metamodel

The class `InformationRequirement` is used to model an **information requirement**, as represented by a plain arrow in a DRD.

An `InformationRequirement` element is a component of a `Decision` element, and it associates that requiring `Decision` element with a `requiredDecision` element, which is an instance of `Decision`, or a `requiredInput` element, which is an instance of `InputData`.

An `InformationRequirement` element references an instance of either a `Decision` or `InputData`, which defines a variable. That variable, which is an instance of `InformationItem`, represents the `InformationRequirement` element at the decision logic level.

Notice that an `InformationRequirement` element must reference the instance of `Decision` or `InputData` that it associates with the requiring `Decision` element, not contain it: instances of `Decision` or `InputData` can only be contained in `Definitions` elements.

An instance of `InformationRequirement` is said to be **well-formed** if and only if all of the following are true:

- it references a `requiredDecision` or a `requiredInput` element, but not both,
- the referenced `requiredDecision` or `requiredInput` element is well-formed,
- the `Decision` element that contains the instance of `InformationRequirement` is not in the requirement subgraph of the referenced `requiredDecision` element, if this `InformationRequirement` element references one.

Table 14 presents the attributes and model associations of the `InformationRequirement` element.

**Table 14: InformationRequirement attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>requiredDecision:</b> Decision [0..1]	The instance of <code>Decision</code> that this <code>InformationRequirement</code> associates with its containing <code>Decision</code> element.

<b>requiredInput:</b> InputData [0..1]	The instance of InputData that this InformationRequirement associates with its containing Decision element.
--	---

### 6.3.12 Knowledge Requirement metamodel

The class KnowledgeRequirement is used to model a **knowledge requirement**, as represented by a dashed arrow in a DRD.

A KnowledgeRequirement element is a component of a Decision element or of a BusinessKnowledgeModel element, and it associates that requiring Decision or BusinessKnowledgeModel element with a requiredKnowledge element, which is an instance of BusinessKnowledgeModel.

Notice that a KnowledgeRequirement element must reference the instance of BusinessKnowledgeModel that it associates with the requiring Decision or BusinessKnowledgeModel element, not contain it: instances of BusinessKnowledgeModel can only be contained in Definitions elements.

An instance of KnowledgeRequirement is said to be **well-formed** if and only if all of the following are true:

- it references a requiredKnowledge element,
- the referenced requiredKnowledge element is well-formed,
- if the KnowledgeRequirement element is contained in an instance of BusinessKnowledgeModel, that BusinessKnowledgeModel element is not in the requirement subgraph of the referenced requiredKnowledge element.

Table 15 presents the attributes and model associations of the KnowledgeRequirement element.

**Table 15: KnowledgeRequirement attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>requiredKnowledge:</b> BusinessKnowledgeModel	The instance of BusinessKnowledgeModel that this KnowledgeRequirement associates with its containing Decision or BusinessKnowledgeModel element.

### 6.3.13 Authority Requirement metamodel

The class AuthorityRequirement is used to model an **authority requirement**, as represented by an arrow drawn with a dashed line and a filled circular head in a DRD.

An AuthorityRequirement element is a component of a Decision, BusinessKnowledgeModel or KnowledgeSource element, and it associates that requiring Decision, BusinessKnowledgeModel or KnowledgeSource element with a requiredAuthority element, which is an instance of KnowledgeSource, a requiredDecision element, which is an instance of Decision, or a requiredInput element, which is an instance of InputData.

Notice that an AuthorityRequirement element must reference the instance of KnowledgeSource, Decision or InputData that it associates with the requiring element, not contain it: instances of KnowledgeSource, Decision or InputData can only be contained in Definitions elements.

Table 16 presents the attributes and model associations of the AuthorityRequirement element.

**Table 16: AuthorityRequirement attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>requiredAuthority:</b> KnowledgeSource [0..1]	The instance of KnowledgeSource that this AuthorityRequirement associates with its containing KnowledgeSource, Decision or BusinessKnowledgeModel element.
<b>requiredDecision:</b> Decision [0..1]	The instance of Decision that this AuthorityRequirement associates with its containing KnowledgeSource element.
<b>requiredInput:</b> InputData [0..1]	The instance of InputData that this AuthorityRequirement associates with its containing KnowledgeSource element.

## 6.4 Examples

Examples of DRDs are provided in clause 11.2.

# 7 Relating Decision Logic to Decision Requirements

## 7.1 Introduction

Clause 6 described how the decision requirements level of a decision model – a DRG represented in one or more DRDs – may be used to model the structure of an area of decision making. However, the details of how each decision's outcome is derived from its inputs must be modeled at the decision logic level. This section introduces the principles by which decision logic may be associated with elements in the DRG. Specific representations of decision logic (decision tables and FEEL expressions) are then defined in clauses 8, 9 and 10.

The decision logic level of a decision model in **DMN** consists of one or more value expressions. The elements of decision logic modeled as value expressions include tabular expressions such as decision tables and invocations, and literal (text) expressions such as *age > 30*.

- A **literal expression** represents decision logic as text that describes how an output value is derived from its input values. The expression language may, but need not, be formal or executable: examples of literal expressions include a plain English description of the logic of a decision, a first order logic proposition, a Java computer program and a PMML document. Clause 10 specifies an executable expression language called **FEEL**. Clause 9 specifies a subset of FEEL (S-FEEL) that is the default language for literal expressions in **DMN** decision tables (clause 8).
- A **decision table** is a tabular representation of decision logic, based on a discretization of the possible values of the inputs of a decision, and organized into rules that map discretized input values onto discrete output values (see clause 8).
- An **invocation** is a tabular representation of how decision logic that is represented by a business knowledge model is invoked by a decision, or by another business knowledge model. An invocation may also be represented as a literal expression, but usually the tabular representation will be more understandable.

Tabular representations of decision logic are called *boxed expressions* in the remainder of this specification.

All three **DMN** conformance levels include all the above expressions. At **DMN** Conformance Level 1, literal expressions are not interpreted and, therefore, free. At **DMN** Conformance Level 2, literal expressions are restricted to S-FEEL. Clause 10 specifies additional boxed expressions available at **DMN** Conformance Level 3.

Decision logic is added to a decision model by including a value expression component in some of the decision model elements in the DRG:

- From a decision logic viewpoint, a decision is a piece of logic that defines how a given question is answered, based on the input data. As a consequence, each **decision** element in a decision model may include a value expression that describes how a decision outcome is derived from its required input, possibly invoking a business knowledge model;
- From a decision logic viewpoint, a business knowledge model is a piece of decision logic that is defined as a function allowing it to be re-used in multiple decisions. As a consequence, each **business knowledge model** element may include a value expression, which is the body of that function.

Another key component of the decision logic level is the **variable**: Variables are used to store values of **Decisions** and **InputData** for use in value expressions. **InformationRequirements** specify variables in scope via reference to those **Decisions** and **InputData**, so that value expressions may reference these variables. Variables link information requirements in the DRG to the value expressions at the decision logic level:

- From a decision logic viewpoint, an information requirement is a requirement for an externally provided value to be assigned to a free variable in the decision logic, so that a decision can be evaluated. As a consequence, each **information requirement** in a decision model points to a **Decision** or **InputData**, which in turn defines a variable that represents the associated data input in the decision's expression.

- The variables that are used in the body of the function defined by a business knowledge model element in the DRG must be bound to the information sources each of the requiring decision. As a consequence, each **business knowledge model** includes zero or more variables that are the parameters of the function.

The third key element of the decision logic level are the **item definitions** that describe the types and structures of data items in a decision model: **input data** elements in the DRG, and **variables** and **value expressions** at the decision logic level, may reference an associated item definition that describes the type and structure of the data expected as input, assigned to the variable or resulting from the evaluation of the expression.

Notice that **knowledge sources** are not represented at the decision logic level: knowledge sources are part of the documentation of the decision logic, not of the decision logic itself.

The dependencies between decisions, required information sources and business knowledge models, as represented by the information and knowledge requirements in a DRG, constrain how the value expressions associated with these elements relate to each other. As explained above, every information requirement at the DRG level is associated with a variable used at the decision logic level. Each variable that is referenced by a decision's expression must be a variable referenced by one of the decision's information requirements or an information requirement in the decision's requirement subgraph. Also, each variable in a decision's information requirement must be a variable referenced in the decision's expression.

- If a decision requires another decision, the value expression of the required decision assigns the value to the variable for use in evaluating the requiring decision. This is the generic mechanism in DMN for composing decisions at the decision logic level.
- If a decision requires an input data, the value of the variable is assigned the value of the data source attached to the input data at execution time. This is the generic mechanism in DMN for instantiating the data requirements for a decision. Notice that, for required input data, FEEL allows test data to be specified for input data.

The input variables of a decision's decision logic must not be used outside that value expression or its component value expressions: the decision element defines the lexical scope of the input variables for its decision logic. To avoid name collisions and ambiguity, the name of a variable must be unique within its scope. When DRG elements are mapped to FEEL, the name of a variable is the same as the (possibly qualified) name of its associated input data or decision, which guarantees its uniqueness.

When DRG elements are mapped to FEEL, all the decisions and input data in a DRG define a *context*, which is the literal expression that represents the logic associated with the decision element and that represents that scope (see 9.3.2.8). The information requirement elements in a decision are *context entries* in the associated context, where the *key* is the name of the variable that the information requirement defines, and where the *expression* is the *context* that is associated with the required decision or input data element that the information requirement references. The value expression that is associated with the decision as its decision logic is the *expression* in the *context entry* that specifies what is the result of the *context*.

In the same way, a business knowledge model element defines the lexical scope of its parameters, that is, of the input variables for its body.

In FEEL, the literal expression and scoping construct that represents the logic associated with a business knowledge model element is a *function definition* (see 10.3.2.11), where the *formal parameters* are the names of the parameters in the business knowledge model element, and the *expression* is the value expression that is the body of the business knowledge model element.

If a business knowledge model element requires one or more other business knowledge models, it must have an explicit value expression that describes how the required business knowledge models are invoked and their results combined or otherwise elaborated.

At the decision logic level, a decision invokes a required business knowledge model by evaluating the business knowledge model's value expression with the parameters bound to its own input value. How this may be achieved depends on how the decision logic is partitioned between the decision and business knowledge models:

- If a decision element requires more than one business knowledge element, its value expression must be a literal expression that specifies how the business knowledge model elements are invoked and how their results are combined into the decision's outcome.

- If a decision does not require any business knowledge models, its value expression must be a literal expression or decision table that specifies the entire decision logic for deriving the output from the inputs.
- Similarly, if a decision element requires only one business knowledge model element, but the logic of the decision elaborates on the logic of its required business knowledge model, the decision element must have a literal expression that specifies how the business knowledge model's value expression is invoked, and how its result is elaborated to provide the decision's outcome.
- In all other cases (i.e. when a decision requires exactly one business knowledge model and does not elaborate the logic), the value expression of a decision element may be a value expression of type invocation. In a value expression of type invocation, only the bindings of the business knowledge model parameters to the decisions input data need be specified: the outcome of the decision is the result returned by the business knowledge model's value expression for the values passed to its parameters.

The binding of a business knowledge model's parameter is a value expression that specifies how the value passed to that parameter is derived from the values of the input variables of the invoking decision.

## 7.2 Notation

### 7.2.1 Boxed Expressions

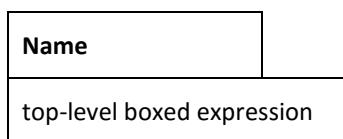
We define a graphical notation for decision logic called **boxed expressions**. This notation serves to decompose the decision logic model into small pieces that can be associated with DRG artifacts. The DRD plus the boxed expressions form a complete, mostly graphical language that completely specifies Decision Models.

In addition to the generic notion of **boxed expression**, this section specifies two kinds of boxed expressions:

- **boxed literal expression**,
- **boxed invocation**.

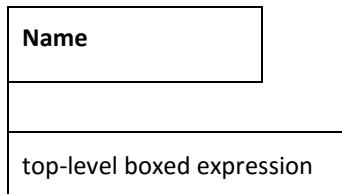
The boxed expression for a decision table is defined in clause 8. Further types of boxed expressions are defined for FEEL, in clause 10.

Boxed expressions are defined recursively, *i.e.* boxed expressions can contain other boxed expressions. The top-level boxed expression corresponds to the decision logic of a single DRG artifact. This boxed expression SHALL have a name box that contains the name of the DRG artifact. The name box may be attached in a single box on top, as shown in Figure 22:



**Figure 22: Boxed expression**

Alternatively, the name box and expression box can be separated by white space and connected on the left side with a line, as shown in Figure 23:



**Figure 23: Boxed expression with separated name and expression boxes**

Name is the only visual link defined between DRD elements and boxed expressions. Graphical tools are expected to support appropriate graphical links, for example, clicking on a decision shape opens a decision table. How the boxed expression is visually associated with the DRD element is left to the implementation.

## 7.2.2 Boxed literal expression

In a boxed expression, a literal expression is represented by its text. However, two notational conventions are provided to improve the readability of boxed literal expressions: typographical string literals and typographical date and time literals.

### 7.2.2.1 Typographical string literals

A string literal such as "DECLINED" can be represented alternatively as the italicized literal *DECLINED*. For example, Figure 24 is equivalent to Figure 25:

Credit contingency factor table		
UC	Risk Category	Credit Contingency Factor
1	<i>HIGH, DECLINE</i>	0.6
2	<i>MEDIUM</i>	0.7
3	<i>LOW, VERY LOW</i>	0.8

**Figure 24: Decision table with italicized literals**

Credit contingency factor table		
UC	Risk Category	Credit Contingency Factor
1	"HIGH", "DECLINE"	0.6
2	"MEDIUM"	0.7
3	"LOW", "VERY LOW"	0.8

**Figure 25: Decision table with string literals**

To avoid having to discern whether (e.g.) *HIGH, DECLINE* is "HIGH", "DECLINE" or "HIGH, DECLINE", typographical string literals SHALL be free of commas ("," characters). FEEL typographical string literals SHALL conform to grammar rule 27 (name).

### 7.2.2.2 Typographical date and time literals

A date, time, date and time, or duration expression such as date("2013-08-09") can be represented alternatively as the bold italicized literal **2013-08-09**. The literal SHALL obey the syntax specified in clauses 10.3.2.3.4, 10.3.2.3.5 and 10.3.2.3.7.

### 7.2.3 Boxed invocation

An invocation is a container for the parameter bindings that provide the context for the evaluation of the body of a business knowledge model.

The representation of an invocation is the name of the business knowledge model with the parameters' bindings explicitly listed.

As a boxed expression, an invocation is represented by a box containing the name of the business knowledge model to be invoked, and boxes for a list of bindings, where each binding is represented by two boxed expressions on a row: the box on the left contains the name of a parameter, and the box on the right contains the binding expression, that is the expression whose value is assigned to the parameter for the purpose of evaluating the invoked business knowledge model (see Figure 26).

Name	
invoked business knowledge model	
parameter 1	Binding expression 1
...	
parameter 2	Binding expression 2
parameter <i>n</i>	Binding expression <i>n</i>

**Figure 26: Boxed invocation**

The invoked business knowledge model is represented by the name of the business knowledge model. Any other visual linkage is left to the implementation.

## 7.3 Metamodel

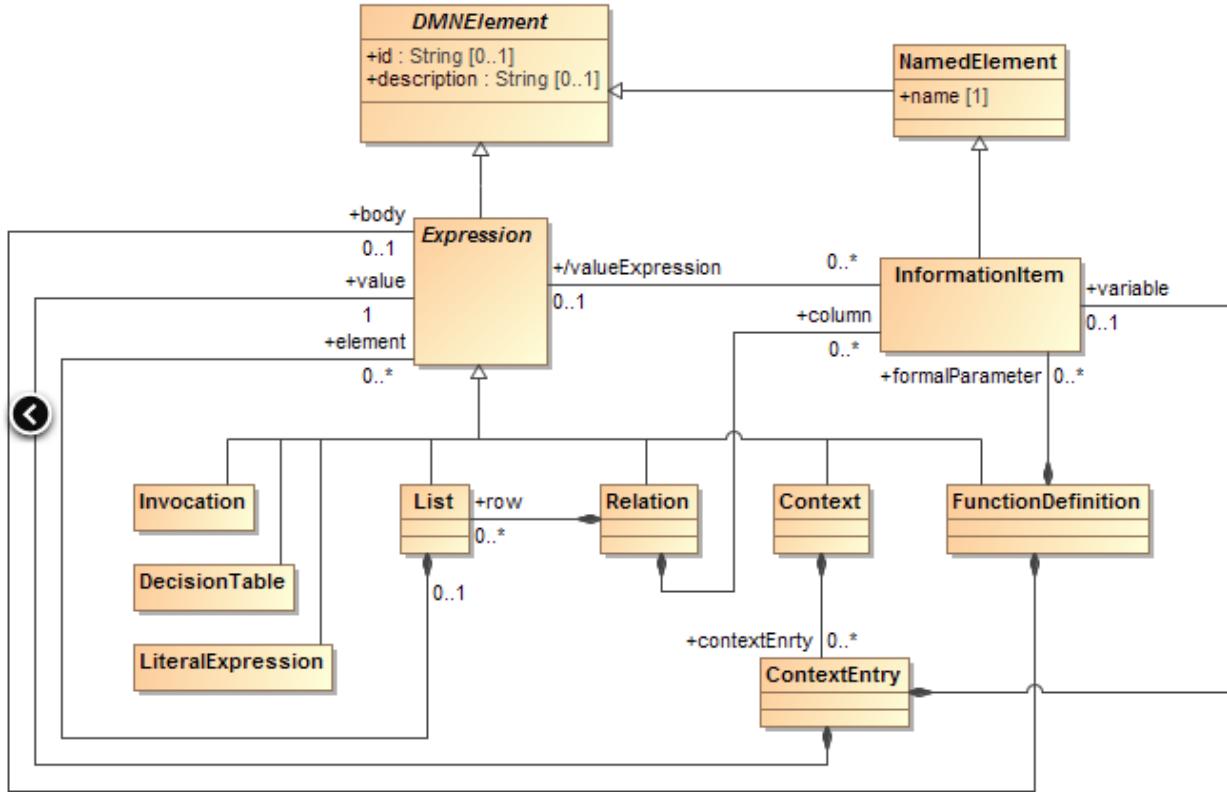
An important characteristic of decisions and business knowledge models, in **DMN**, is that they may contain an expression that describes the logic by which a modeled decision shall be made, or pieces of that logic.

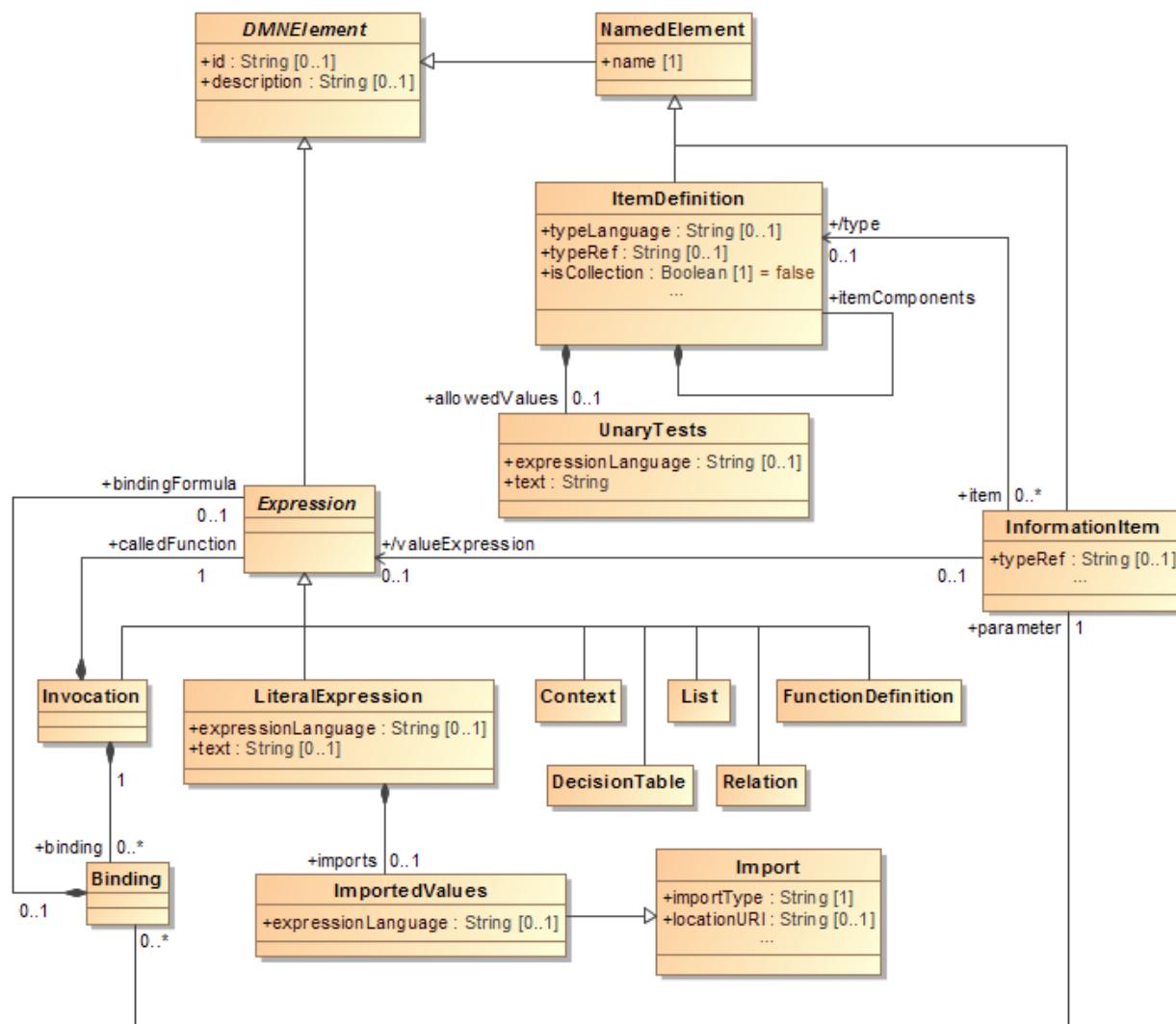
In **DMN 1.0**, the class **Expression** is the abstract superclass for all expressions that are used to describe complete or parts of decision logic in **DMN** models and that return a single value when interpreted (clause 7.3.1). Here “single value” possibly includes structured data, such as a decision table with multiple outputs.

**DMN 1.0** defines three concrete kinds of **Expression**: **LiteralExpression**, **DecisionTable** (see clause 8) and **Invocation**.

An expression may reference variables, such that the value of the expression, when interpreted, depends on the values assigned to the referenced variables. In **DMN 1.0**, the class `InformationItem` is used to model variables in expressions.

The value of an expression, like the value assigned to a variable, may have a structure and a range of allowable values. In **DMN 1.0**, the class `ItemDefinition` is used to model data structures and ranges.





**Figure 27: Expression class diagram**

### 7.3.1 Expression metamodel

An important characteristic of decisions and business knowledge models, in **DMN**, is that they may contain an expression that describes the logic by which a modeled decision shall be made, or pieces of that logic.

Expression is an abstract specialization of DMNElement, from which it inherits the id, and optional name and description attributes.

An instance of Expression is a component of a Decision element, of a BusinessKnowledgeModel element, or of an ItemDefinition element, or it is a component of another instance of Expression, directly or indirectly. The id of an Expression element SHALL be unique within the containing instance of Decision, BusinessKnowledgeModel or ItemDefinition.

An instance of Expression references zero or more variables implicitly by using their names in its expression text. These variables, which are instances of InformationItem, are lexically scoped in the Expression instance. If the Expression instance is contained in an instance of Decision, the scope is defined by that Decision. If the Expression instance is contained in a BusinessKnowledgeModel, the scope is the BusinessKnowledgeModel.

An instance of Expression can be interpreted to derive a single value from the values assigned to its variables. How the value of an Expression element is derived from the values assigned to its variables depends on the concrete kind of the Expression.

Expression inherits from the attributes and model associations of DMNElement. Table 17 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the Expression element.

**Table 17: Expression attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>inputClause:</b> Clause [0..1]	The containing instance of Clause, if this Expression is an inputEntry element in an instance of DecisionTable.
<b>outputClause:</b> Clause [0..1]	The containing instance of Clause, if this Expression is an outputEntry element in an instance of DecisionTable.

### 7.3.2 ItemDefinition metamodel

In **DMN**, the inputs and output of decisions are data items whose value, at the decision logic level, is assigned to variables or represented by value expressions.

An important characteristic of data items in decision models is their structure. **DMN** does not require a particular format for this data structure, but it does designate a subset of FEEL as its default.

In **DMN 1.0**, the class ItemDefinition is used to model the structure and the range of values of the input and the outcome of decisions.

As a concrete specialization of NamedElement, an instance of ItemDefinition has a name and optional id and description. The name of an ItemDefinition element SHALL be unique within the containing instance of Definitions and its associated namespace.

The default type language for all elements can be specified in the Definitions element using the typeLanguage attribute. For example, a typeLanguage value of <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema>” indicates that the data structures used by elements within that Definitions are in the form of XML Schema types. If unspecified, the default is FEEL.

Notice that the data types that are built-in in the typeLanguage that is associated with an instance of Definitions need not be redefined by ItemDefinition elements contained in that Definitions element: they are considered imported and can be referenced in **DMN** elements within the Definitions element.

The type language can be overridden locally using the `typeLanguage` attribute in the `ItemDefinition` element.

Notice, also, that the data types and structures that are defined at the top level in a data model that is imported using an `Import` element that is associated with an instance of `Definitions` need not be redefined by `ItemDefinition` elements contained in that `Definitions` element: they are considered imported and can be referenced in **DMN** elements within the `Definitions` element.

An `ItemDefinition` element SHALL have a `typeRef`, which is a QName that references, by namespace prefix and local name, either an `ItemDefinition` in the current instance of `Definitions` or a built-in type in the specified `typeLanguage` or a type defined in an imported DMN, XSD, or other document. In the latter case, the external document SHALL be imported in the `Definitions` element that contains the instance of `ItemDefinition`, using an `Import` element. For example, in the case of data structures contributed by an XML schema, an `Import` would be used to specify the file location of that schema, and the `typeRef` attribute would reference the type or element definition in the imported schema..

If the type language is FEEL the built-in types are the FEEL built-in data types: *number, string, boolean, days and time duration, years and months duration, time and date and time*.

An `ItemDefinition` element may restrict the values that are allowed from `typeRef`, using the `allowedValues` attribute. The `allowedValues` are an instance of `unaryTests` that specifies the allowed values or ranges of allowed values within the domain of the `typeRef`. The type of the allowed values SHALL be consistent with the containing `ItemDefinition` element. If an `ItemDefinition` element contains one or more `allowedValues`, the `allowedValues` specifies the complete range of values that this `ItemDefinition` represents. If an `ItemDefinition` element does not contain `allowedValues`, its range of allowed values is the full range of the referenced `typeRef`.

In cases where the values that an `ItemDefinition` element represents are collections of values in the allowed range, the multiplicity can be projected into the attribute `isCollection`. The default value for this attribute is *false*.

An alternative way to define an instance of `ItemDefinition` is as a composition of `ItemComponent` elements. An instance of `ItemDefinition` may contain zero or more `itemComponent`, which are themselves `ItemDefinitions`. Each `itemComponent` in turn may be defined by either a `typeRef` and `allowedValues` or a nested `itemComponent`. In this way, complex types may be defined within DMN. The name of an `itemComponent` (nested `ItemDefinition`) must be unique within its containing `ItemDefinition`..

An `ItemDefinition` element SHALL be defined using only one of the alternative ways:

- reference to a built-in or imported `typeRef`, possibly restricted with `allowedValues`;
- composition of `ItemComponent` elements.

The `ItemDefinition` element specializes `NamedElement` and it inherits its attributes and model associations. Table 18 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the `ItemDefinition` element.

**Table 18: ItemDefinition attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>typeRef:</b> String [1]	This attribute identifies by namespace-prefixed name the base type of this ItemDefinition.
<b>typeLanguage:</b> String [0..1]	This attribute identifies the type language used to specify the base type of this ItemDefinition. This value overrides the type language specified in the Definitions element. The language SHALL be specified in a URI format.
<b>allowedValues:</b> UnaryTests [0..1]	This attribute lists the possible values or ranges of values in the base type that are allowed in this ItemDefinition.
<b>itemComponent:</b> ItemDefinition [*]	This attribute defines zero or more nested ItemDefinitions that compose this ItemDefinition.
<b>IsCollection:</b> Boolean	Setting this flag to <i>true</i> indicates that the actual values defined by this ItemDefinition are collections of allowed values. The default is <i>false</i> .

### 7.3.3 InformationItem metamodel

In **DMN 1.0**, the class `InformationItem` is used to model variables at the decision logic level in decision models.

`InformationItem` is a concrete subclass of `NamedElement`, from which it inherits the `id`, and optional `name` and `description` attributes, except that an `InformationItem` element SHALL have a `name` attribute, which is the name that is used to represent it in other `Expression` elements. The name of an `InformationItem` element SHALL be unique within its scope.

In **DMN**, variables represent values that result from a decision, are assigned to input data by an external data source, or are passed to a module of decision logic that is defined as a function (and that is represented by a business knowledge model element). In the first or second case, a variable may be referenced by other dependent decisions by means of their information requirements. In the third case, a variable is one of the parameters of the function that is the realization, at the decision logic level, of a business knowledge model element.

A variable representing an instance of `Decision` or `InputData` referenced by an `InformationRequirement` SHALL be referenced by the value expression of the decision logic in the `Decision` element that contains the `InformationRequirement` element. A parameter in an instance of `BusinessKnowledgeModel` SHALL be a variable in the value expression of that `BusinessKnowledgeModel` element.

An `InformationItem` element contained in a `Decision` is assigned the value of the `Decision`'s value expression.

- An `InformationItem` element that is a parameter in a `BusinessKnowledgeModel` is assigned a value by a `Binding` element as part of an instance of `Invocation`.
- An `InformationItem` element contained in an `InputData` is assigned a value by an external data source that is attached at runtime.
- An `InformationItem` element contained in a `ContextEntry` is assigned a value by the `ContextEntry`'s value expression.

In any case, the datatype indicated by the typeRef that is associated with an instance of InformationItem SHALL be compatible with the datatype that is associated with the DMN model element from which it takes its value..

InformationItem inherits of all the attributes and model associations of NamedElement. Table 19 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the InformationItem element.

**Table 19: InformationItem attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
/valueExpression: Expression [0..1]	The Expression whose value is assigned to this InformationItem. This is a derived attribute
typeRef: String [0..1]	A pointer to a specification of the datatype of the possible values for this InformationItem, either an ItemDefinition, a base type in the specified expressionLanguage, or an imported type..

### 7.3.4 Literal expression metamodel

In **DMN 1.0**, the class LiteralExpression is used to model a value expression whose value is specified by text in some specified expression language.

LiteralExpression is a concrete subclass of Expression.

An instance of LiteralExpression has an optional text, which is a String, and an optional expressionLanguage, which is a String that identifies the expression language of the text. If no expressionLanguage is specified, the expression language of the text is the expressionLanguage that is associated with the containing instance of Definitions. The expressionLanguage SHALL be specified in a URI format. The default expression language is FEEL.

As a subclass of Expression, each instance of LiteralExpression has a value. The text in an instance of LiteralExpression determines its value, according to the semantics of the LiteralExpression's expressionLanguage. The semantics of **DMN 1.0** decision models as described in this specification applies only if the text of all the instances of LiteralExpression in the model are valid expressions in their associated expression language.

An instance of LiteralExpression may include importedValues, which is an instance of a subclass Import that identifies where the text of the LiteralExpression is located. importedValues is an expression that selects text from an imported document. An instance of LiteralExpression SHALL NOT have both a text and importedValues. The importType of the importedValues identifies the type of document containing the imported text and SHALL be consistent with the expressionLanguage of the LiteralExpression element. The expressionLanguage of the importedValues element identifies how the imported text is selected from the imported document. For example, if the importType indicates an XML document, the expressionLanguage of importedValues could be XPATH 2.0. LiteralExpression inherits of all the attributes and model associations of Expression. Table 20 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the LiteralExpression element.

**Table 20: LiteralExpression attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>text:</b> String [0..1]	The text of this LiteralExpression. It SHALL be a valid expression in the expressionLanguage.
<b>expressionLanguage:</b> String [0..1]	This attribute identifies the expression language used in this LiteralExpression. This value overrides the expression language specified for the containing instance of DecisionRequirementDiagram. The language SHALL be specified in a URI format.
<b>import:</b> Import [0..1]	The instance of Import that specifies where the text of this LiteralExpression is located.

### 7.3.5 Invocation metamodel

Invocation is a mechanism that permits the evaluation of one value expression – the invoked expression – inside another value expression – the invoking expression – by binding locally the input variables of the invoked expression to values inside the invoking expression. In an invocation, the input variables of the invoked expression are usually called: *parameters*. Invocation permits the same value expression to be re-used in multiple expressions, without having to duplicate it as a sub-expression in all the using expressions.

In DMN, the class Invocation is used to model invocations as a kind of Expression: Invocation is a concrete specialization of Expression.

An instance of Invocation is made of zero or more binding, which are instances of Binding, and model how the parameters of the invoked expression are bound to the inputVariables of the invoking instance of Expression.

An instance of Invocation references a calledFunction, which is the instance of Expression to be invoked.

The value of an instance of Invocation is the value of the associated calledFunction, with its inputVariables assigned values at runtime per the bindings in the Invocation.

Invocation MAY be used to model invocations in decision models, when a Decision element has exactly one knowledgeRequirement element, and when the decisionLogic in the Decision element consists only in invoking the BusinessKnowledgeModel element that is referenced by that requiredKnowledge and a more complex value expression is not required.

Using Invocation instances as the decisionLogic in Decision elements permits the re-use of the body of an instance of BusinessKnowledgeModel as the logic for any instance of Decision that requires that BusinessKnowledgeModel, where each requiring Decision element specifies its own bindings for the BusinessKnowledgeModel element's parameters.

The calledFunction that is associated with the Invocation element SHALL BE the body of the BusinessKnowledgeModel element that is required by the Decision element that contains the Invocation; that is, the calledFunction is a derived attribute. The Invocation element SHALL have exactly one binding for each parameter in the BusinessKnowledgeModel element.

Invocation inherits of all the attributes and model associations of Expression. Table 21 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the Invocation element.

**Table 21: Invocation attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>/calledFunction:</b> Expression	The Expression that is invoked by this Invocation. It SHALL BE the body of the BusinessKnowledgeModel element that is required by the instance of Decision that contains this Invocation. This is a derived attribute
<b>binding:</b> Binding [*]	This attribute lists the instances of Binding used to bind the inputVariables of the calledFunction in this Invocation.

### 7.3.6 Binding metamodel

In **DMN 1.0**, the class Binding is used to model, in an Invocation element, the binding of the free variables – or *parameters* – in the invoked expression to the input variables of the invoking expression.

An instance of Binding is made of one bindingFormula, which is an instance of Expression, and of one reference to a parameter, which is an instance of InformationItem.

The inputVariables of the bindingFormula in a Binding element SHALL be a subset of the inputVariables in the owning instance of Invocation.

The parameter referenced by a Binding element SHALL be one of the parameters of the BusinessKnowledgeModel element that contains the calledFunction element that is invoked by the containing instance of Invocation.

When the Invocation element is executed, each InformationItem element that is referenced as a parameter by a binding in the Invocation element is assigned, at runtime, the value of the bindingFormula.

Table 22 presents the attributes and model associations of the Binding element.

**Table 22: Binding attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>parameter:</b> InformationItem	The InformationItem on which the calledFunction of the owning instance of Invocation depends that is bound by this Binding.
<b>bindingFormula:</b> Expression [0..1]	The instance of Expression to which the parameter in this Binding is bound when the owning instance of Invocation is evaluated.

# 8 Decision Table

## 8.1 Introduction

One of the ways to express the decision logic corresponding to the DRD decision artifact is as a decision table. A decision table is a tabular representation of a set of related input and output expressions, organized into rules indicating which output entry applies to a specific set of input entries. The decision table contains all (and only) the inputs required to determine the output. Moreover, a complete table contains all possible combinations of input values (all the rules).

Decision tables and decision table hierarchies have a proven track record in decision logic representation. It is one of the purposes of **DMN** to standardize different forms and types of decision tables.

A decision table consists of:

- a table name, the name of an `InformationItem`, if any, for which the decision table is its value expression,
- a set of inputs (zero or more). Each input is made of an input expression and a number of input entries. The specification of input expression and all input entries is referred to as the input clause.
- a set of outputs (one or more). A single output has no name, apart from the table name. Two or more outputs are called output components. Each output component SHALL be named. Each output (component) SHALL specify an output entry for each rule. The specification of table name or output component name and all output entries is referred to as the output clause.
- a list of rules (one or more) in rows or columns of the table (depending on orientation), where each rule is composed of the specific input entries and output entries of the table row (or column). If the rules are expressed as rows, the columns are clauses, and vice versa

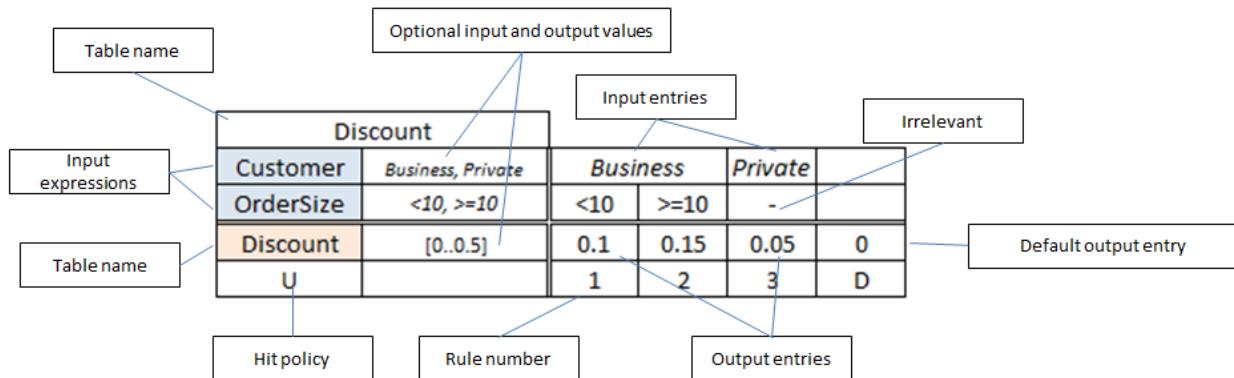


Figure 28: Decision table example (vertical orientation: rules as columns)

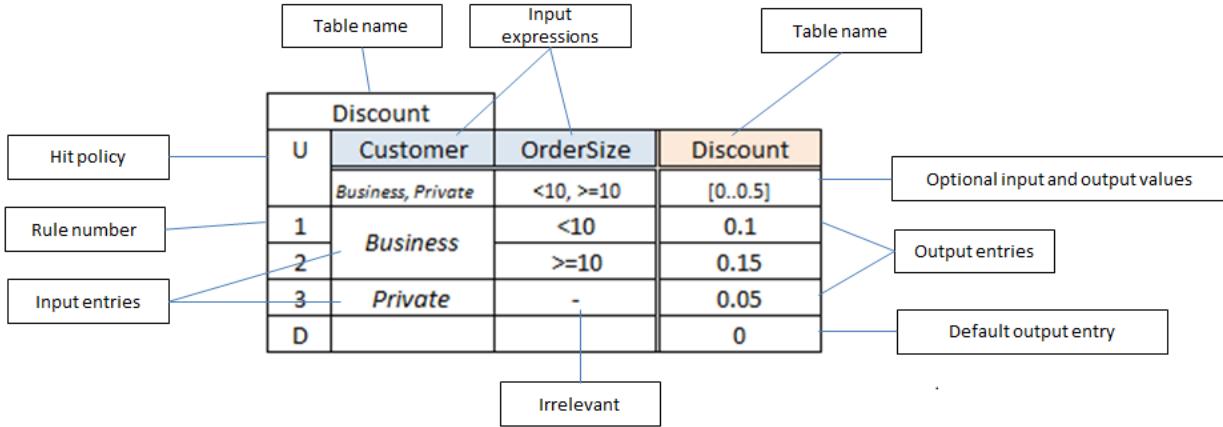


Figure 29: Decision table example (horizontal orientation: rules as rows)

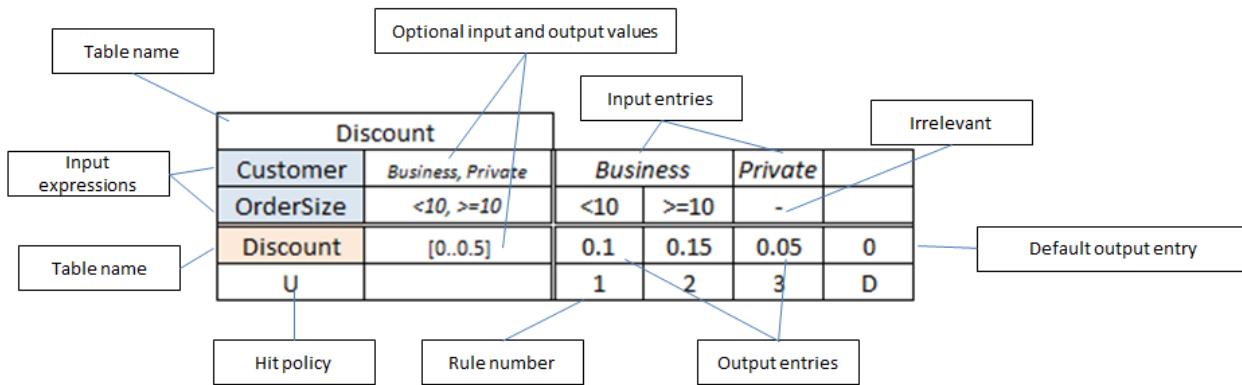


Figure 30: Decision table example (vertical orientation, multiple output components)

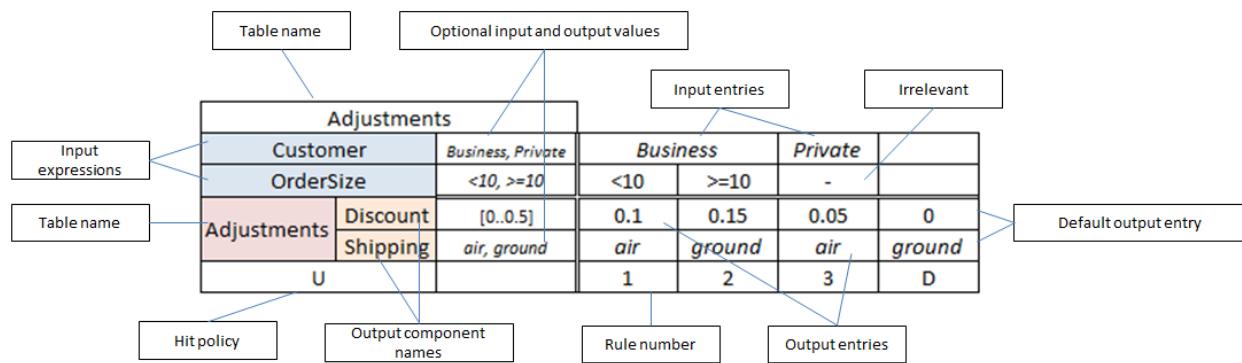


Figure 31: Decision table example (horizontal orientation, multiple output components)

The decision table shows the rules in a shorthand notation by arranging the entries in table cells. This shorthand notation shows all inputs in the same order in every rule and therefore has a number of readability and verification advantages.

For example:

Customer	OrderSize	Discount
Business	<10	0.10

reads as:

**If** Customer = “Business” **and** OrderSize < 10 **then** Discount = 0.10

In general, this is expressed as:

input expression 1	input expression 2	Table name
input entry a	input entry b	output entry c

The three highlighted cells in the decision table fragment above represent the following rule:

**If** the value of input expression 1 satisfies input entry a

**and** the value of input expression 2 satisfies input entry b

**then** the rule *matches* and the result of the decision table (or the output component) is output entry c

An input expression value *satisfies* an input entry if the value is equal to the input entry, or belongs to the list of values indicated by the input entry (e.g. a list or a range). If the input entry is ‘-’ (meaning *irrelevant*), every value of the input expression satisfies the input entry and that particular input is irrelevant in the specified rule.

A rule *matches* if the value of every input expression satisfies the corresponding input entry. If there are no input entries, any rule matches.

The list of rules expresses the logic of the decision. For a given set of input values, the matching rule (or rules) indicate the resulting value for the output name. If rules *overlap*, multiple rules can match and a *hit policy* indicates how to handle the multiple matches.

If two input entries of the same input expression share no values, the entries (cells) are called *disjoint*. If there is an intersection, the entries are called *overlapping* (or even equal). ‘Irrelevant’ (‘-’) overlaps with any input entry of the input expression.

Two rules are overlapping if all corresponding input entries are *overlapping*. A specific configuration of input data may then match the two rules.

Two rules are *disjoint* (non-overlapping) if at least one pair of corresponding input expressions is disjoint. No specific configuration of input data will match the two rules.

If tables are allowed to contain overlapping rules, the table hit policy indicates how overlapping rules have to be handled and which is the resulting value(s) for the output name, in order to avoid inconsistency.

The list of rules may contain all input entries to satisfy all expected combinations of input values, in which case the table is called *complete*.

## 8.2 Notation

This section builds on the generic notation for decision logic and boxed expressions defined in clause 7.2.

A decision table representation standardizes:

- the orientation (rules as rows, columns or crosstab), as shown by the table
- placement of inputs, outputs and (optional) allowed values in standard locations on a grid of cells. Each input expression is optionally associated with unary tests restricting the allowed input values. In this text the optional

cells with allowed values are indicated in inverse. Each output (component) is optionally associated with allowed values. In this text the optional allowed output values are indicated in inverse..

- line style and optional use of color
- the contents of specific rule input and output entry cells
- the hit policy, indicating how to interpret overlapping input combinations
- placement of table name, hit policy (H), completeness indicator (C) and rule numbers as indicated in Figure 32, Figure 34 and Figure 36. Rule numbers are consecutive natural numbers starting at 1. Rule numbering is required for tables with hit indicator F (first) or R (rule order), because the meaning depends on rule sequence. Crosstab tables have no rule numbers. Rule numbering is optional for other table types.

Input expressions, input values, output values, input entries and output entries can be any text (e.g. natural language, formal language, pseudo-code). Implementations claiming level 2 or 3 conformance SHALL support (S-)FEEL syntax. Implementations claiming level 1 conformance are not required to interpret the expressions. To avoid misinterpretation (e.g. when expressions are not meant to be valid (S-)FEEL but may conflict with the look and feel of (S-)FEEL syntax), conformant implementations SHOULD indicate when the input expression is not meant to be interpreted by using the URI: "<http://www.omg.org/spec/DMN/uninterpreted/20140801>".

### 8.2.1 Line style and color

Line style is normative. There is a double line between the inputs section and the outputs section, and there is a double line between input/output expressions and the rule entry cells. Other cells are separated by a single line.

Color is suggested, but does not influence the meaning. It is considered good practice to use different colors for the input expressions section and the output name section, and another (or no) color for the rule entries.

### 8.2.2 Table orientation

Depending on size, a decision table can be presented horizontally (rules as rows), vertically (rules as columns), or crosstab (rules composed from two input dimensions). Crosstab tables can only have the default hit policy (see later).

Decision table inputs and outputs should not be mixed. In a horizontal table, all input columns SHALL be represented on the left of all output columns. In a vertical table, all the input rows SHALL be represented above all output rows. In a crosstab, all the output cells SHALL be in the bottom-right part of the table.

The table SHALL be arranged in one of the following ways (see Figure 32, Figure 34, Figure 36). Cells indicated in **inverse** are optional.

The input cell entry ‘-’ means ‘irrelevant’. HC is a placeholder for hit policy indicator (e.g. U, A, F, ...) and completeness indicator (see later).

table name			
HC	input expression 1	input expression 2	Table name
	value 1a, value 1b	value 2a, value 2b	value 1a, value 1b
1	input entry 1.1	input entry 2.1	output entry 1.1
2		input entry 2.2	output entry 1.2
3	input entry 1.2	-	output entry 1.3

**Figure 32: Rules as rows – schematic layout**

Discount		Customer	OrderSize	Delivery	Discount
<i>Business, Private, Government</i>		<10, >=10		sameday, slow	0, 0.05, 0.10, 0.15
1	<i>Business</i>	<10		-	0.05
2		>=10		-	0.10
3	<i>Private</i>	-		sameday	0
4				slow	0.05
5	<i>Government</i>	-		-	0.15

Figure 33: Rules as rows – example

table name				
input expression 1		value 1a, value 1b		input entry 1.1
input expression 2		value 2a, value 2b		input entry 1.2
Table name		input entry 2.1	input entry 2.2	-
HC		output entry 1.1	output entry 1.2	output entry 1.3
		1	2	3

Figure 34: Rules as columns – schematic layout

Discount						
Customer	<i>Business, Private, Government</i>	<i>Business</i>		<i>Private</i>		<i>Government</i>
Ordersize	<10, >=10	<10	>=10	-		-
Delivery	sameday, slow	-	-	sameday	slow	-
Discount	0, 0.05, 0.10, 0.15	0.05	0.10	0	0.05	0.15
UC		1	2	3	4	5

Figure 35: Rules as columns – example

table name				
Table name		input expression 1		
		input entry 1.1	input entry 1.2	
input expression 2	input entry 2.1	output entry 1.1	output entry 1.3	
	input entry 2.2	output entry 1.2	output entry 1.4	

Figure 36: Rules as crosstab – schematic layout (optional input and output values not shown)

Discount		Customer		
Discount		Business	Private	Government
Ordersize	<10	0.05	0	0.15
	≥10	0.10	0	0.15

Figure 37: Rules as crosstab – simplified example with only two inputs

Discount		Customer, Delivery			
Discount		Business	Private	Government	-
Ordersize	-	sameday	slow	-	-
	<10	0.05	0	0.05	0.15
>=10	>=10	0.10	0	0.05	0.15

Figure 38: Rules as crosstab - example with three inputs

Crosstab tables with more than two inputs are possible (as shown in Figure 38).

### 8.2.3 Input expressions

Input expressions are usually simple, for example, a name (e.g. CustomerStatus) or a test (e.g. Age<25).

The order of input expressions is not related to any execution order in implementation.

### 8.2.4 Input values

Input expressions may be expected to result in a limited number or a limited range of values. It is important to model these expected input values, because a decision table will be considered complete if its rules cover all combinations of expected input values for all input expressions.

Regardless of how the expected input values are modeled, input values SHOULD be exclusive and complete. Exclusive means that input values are disjoint. Complete means that all relevant input values from the domain are present.

For example, the following two input value ranges overlap: <5, <10. The following two ranges are incomplete: <5, >5.

The list of input values is optional. If provided, it is a list of unary tests that must be satisfied by the corresponding input.

### 8.2.5 Table name and output component names

A decision table with multiple output components SHALL specify a name for each output component.

A decision table that is not contained in another boxed expression and that is the value expression of an InformationItem (\_e.g.\_ a Decision) SHALL specify the name of the InformationItem as the table name, in a name box just above and adjoining the table. The table name MAY also be shown in the interior table name cell (or the interior table name cell may be left blank). A decision table that is contained in another boxed expression SHALL NOT have a name box above the table. A decision table that is contained in another boxed expression and that is the value expression of an InformationItem (e.g., a parameter binding in boxed invocation, or the value of a named context

entry in a boxed context) SHALL use the name of the `InformationItem` as the table name (in the internal table name cell). A decision table that is contained in a boxed expression and is not the value expression of an `InformationItem` may specify a table name or may leave the table name cell blank.

## 8.2.6 Output values

The output entries of a decision table are often drawn from a list of output values.

The list of output values is optional. If provided, it is a list restricting output entries to the given list of values.

When the hit policy is P (priority), meaning that multiple rules can match, but only one hit should be returned, the ordering of the list of output values is used to specify the (decreasing) priority.

The ordering of the list of output values is also used when the hit policy is output order.

## 8.2.7 Multiple outputs

The decision table can show a compound output (see **Figure 39**, **Figure 40**, **Figure 41**).

table name			table name	
HC	input expression 1	input expression 2	output component 1	output component 2
	input value 1a, input value 1b	input value 2a, input value 2b	output value 1a, output value 1b	output value 2a, output value 2b
1	input entry 1a	input entry 2a	output entry 1.1	output entry 2.1
2		input entry 2b	output entry 1.2	output entry 2.2
3		-	output entry 1.3	output entry 2.3

**Figure 39: Horizontal table with compound output**

table name		input entry 1a			input entry 1b
input expression 1		input value 1a, input value 1b	input entry 1a		input entry 1b
input expression 2		input value 2a, input value 2b	input entry 2a	input entry 2b	-
table name	Output component 1	output value 1a, output value 1b	output entry 1.1	output entry 1.2	output entry 1.3
	output component 2	output value 2a, output value 2b	output entry 2.1	output entry 2.2	output entry 2.3
HC			1	2	3

**Figure 40: Vertical table with compound output**

table name			
table name		input expression 1	
Output component 1, Output component 2		input entry 1a input entry 1b	
input expression 2	input entry 2a	output entry 1.1, output entry 2.1	output entry 1.3 output entry 2.3
	input entry 2b	output entry 1.2, output entry 2.2	output entry 1.4, output entry 2.4

Figure 41: Crosstab with compound output

## 8.2.8 Input entries

Rule input entries are expressions.

A dash symbol ('-') can be used to mean any input value, *i.e.*, the input is irrelevant for the containing rule.

The input entries in a unary test SHOULD be '-' or a subset of the input values specified. For example, if the input values for input 'Age' are specified as  $[0..120]$ , then an input entry of  $<0$  SHOULD be reported as invalid.

Tables containing at least one '-' input entry are called *contracted* tables. The others are called *expanded*.

Tables where every input entry is *true*, *false*, or '-' are historically called *limited-entry* tables, but there is no need to maintain this restriction.

Evaluation of the input expressions in a decision table does not produce side-effects that influence the evaluation of other input expressions. This means that evaluating an expression or executing a rule should not change the evaluation of other expressions or rules of the same table. This is particularly important in first hit tables where the rules are evaluated in a predefined sequence: evaluating or executing a rule should not influence other rules.

## 8.2.9 Merged input entry cells

Adjacent input entry cells from different rules, with the same content and same (or no) prior cells can be merged, as shown in Figure 42 and Figure 43. Rule output cells cannot be merged (except in crosstabs).

table name			
HC	input expression 1	input expression 2	Output name
	input value 1a, input value 1b	input value 2a, input value 2b	output value 1a, output value 1b
1	input entry 1a	input entry 2a	output entry 1.1
2		input entry 2b	output entry 1.2
3	input entry 1b	-	output entry 1.3

Figure 42: Merged rule input cells allowed

table name			
HC	input expression 1	input expression 2	Output name
	input value 1a, input value 1b	input value 2a, input value 2b	output value 1a, output value 1b
1	input entry 1a	input entry 2a	output entry 1.1
2		input entry 2b	output entry 1.2
3	input entry 1b	input entry 2b	output entry 1.3
4		input entry 2a	output entry 1.4

Figure 43: Merged rule input cells not allowed

## 8.2.10 Output entry

A rule output entry is an expression.

Rule output cells cannot be merged (except in crosstabs, where adjacent output cells with the same content can be merged).

### Shorthand notation

In vertical (rules as columns) tables with a single output name (equal to the table name), a shorthand notation may be used to indicate: output value applies ('X') or does not apply ('-'), as is common practice in decision tables.

Because there can be only one output entry for an output name, every rule must indicate no more than one 'X'. The other output entries must contain '-'.

The table in Figure 44 is shorthand notation for the table in Figure 45. It is called shorthand , because the output entries need not be (re-)written in every column, but are indicated with a one-character notation ('X' or '-'), thereby saving space in vertical tables, which tend to expand in width as the number of rules increases. The output values are written only once, before the rules, in the output expression part.

If a table name is provided, and there is only one output name (which has to be equal to the table name), the output name is optional.

Applicant Risk Rating					
Applicant Age	< 25		[25..60]	> 60	
Medical History	good	bad	-	good	bad
Low	X	-	-	-	-
Medium	-	X	X	X	-
High	-	-	-	-	X
<b>U</b>	1	2	3	4	5

Figure 44: Shorthand notation for vertical tables (rules as columns)

Applicant Risk Rating				
Applicant Age	< 25		[25..60]	> 60
Medical History	good	bad	-	good
Applicant Risk Rating	Low	Medium	Medium	High
U	1	2	3	4
				5

**Figure 45: Full notation for vertical tables (rules as columns)**

## 8.2.11 Hit policy

A decision table normally has several rules. As a default, rules do not overlap. If rules overlap, meaning that more than one rule may match a given set of input values, the hit policy indicator is required in order to recognize the table type and unambiguously understand the decision logic. The hit policy can be used to check correctness at design-time.

The hit policy specifies what the result of the decision table is in cases of overlapping rules, i.e. when more than one rule matches the input data. For clarity, the hit policy is summarized using a single character in a particular decision table cell. In horizontal tables this is the top-left cell (Figure 29) and in vertical tables this is the bottom-left cell (Figure 28). The character is the initial letter of the defined hit policy (**Unique**, **Any**, **Priority**, **First**, **Collect**, **Output order** or **Rule order**). Crosstab tables are always Unique and need no indicator.

The hit policy SHALL default to Unique, in which case the hit indicator is optional. Decision tables with the Unique hit policy SHALL NOT contain overlapping rules.

Tools may support only a nonempty subset of hit policies, but the table type SHALL be clear and therefore the hit policy indication is mandatory, except for the default unique tables. Unique tables SHALL always be supported.

### Single and multiple hit tables

A single hit table shall return the output of one rule only; a multiple hit table may return the output of multiple rules (or a function of the outputs, e.g. sum of values). If rules are allowed to overlap, the hit policy indicates how overlapping rules have to be interpreted.

The initial letter for hit policy also identifies if a table is single hit or multiple hit.

A single hit table may or may not contain overlapping rules, but returns the output of one rule only. In case of overlapping rules, the hit policy indicates which of the matching rules to select. Some restrictions apply to tables with compound outputs.

**Single hit policies** for single output decision tables are:

1. **Unique**: no overlap is possible and all rules are disjoint. Only a single rule can be matched. This is the default.
2. **Any**: there may be overlap, but all of the matching rules show equal output entries for each output, so any match can be used. If the output entries are non-equal, the hit policy is incorrect and the result is undefined.
3. **Priority**: multiple rules can match, with different output entries. This policy returns the matching rule with the highest output priority. Output priorities are specified in the ordered list of output values, in decreasing order of priority. Note that priorities are independent from rule sequence.
4. **First**: multiple (overlapping) rules can match, with different output entries. The first hit by rule order is returned (and evaluation can halt). This is still a common usage, because it resolves inconsistencies by forcing the first hit. However, first hit tables are not considered good practice because they do not offer a clear overview of the decision logic. It is important to distinguish this type of table from others because the meaning depends on the order of the rules. The last rule is often the catch-remainder. Because of this order, the table is hard to validate manually and therefore has to be used with care.

A multiple hit table may return output entries from multiple rules. The result will be a list of rule outputs or a simple function of the outputs.

**Multiple hit policies** for single output decision tables can be:

5. **Output order:** returns all hits in decreasing output priority order. Output priorities are specified in the ordered list of output values in decreasing order of priority.
6. **Rule order:** returns all hits in rule order. Note: the meaning may depend on the sequence of the rules.
7. **Collect:** returns all hits in arbitrary order. An operator ('+', '<', '>', '#') can be added to apply a simple function to the outputs. If no operator is present, the result is the list of all the output entries.

Collect operators are:

- a) + (sum): the result of the decision table is the sum of all the distinct outputs.
- b) < (min): the result of the decision table is the smallest value of all the outputs.
- c) > (max): the result of the decision table is the largest value of all the outputs.
- d) # (count): the result of the decision table is the number of distinct outputs.

Other policies, such as more complex manipulations on the outputs, can be performed by post-processing the output list (outside the decision table).

Decision tables with compound outputs support only the following hit policies: Unique, Any, Priority, First, Output order, Rule order and Collect without operator, because the collect operator is undefined over multiple outputs.

For the Priority and Output order hit policies, priority is decided in compound output tables over all the outputs for which output values have been provided. The priority for each output is specified in the ordered list of output values in decreasing order of priority, and the overall priority is established by considering the ordered outputs from left to right in horizontal tables (i.e. columns to the left take precedence over columns to the right), or from top to bottom in vertical tables. Outputs for which no output values are provided are not taken into account in the ordering, although their output entries are included in the ordered compound output.

So, for example, if called with Age = 17, Risk category = “HIGH” and Debt review = true, the Routing rules table in Figure 46 would return the outputs of all four rules, in the order 2, 4, 3, 1.

Routing rules						
O	Age	Risk category	Debt review	Routing	Review level	Reason
		LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH		DECLINE, REFER, ACCEPT	LEVEL 2, LEVEL 1, NONE	
1	-	-	-	ACCEPT	NONE	Acceptable
2	< 18	-	-	DECLINE	NONE	Applicant too young
3	-	HIGH	-	REFER	LEVEL 1	High risk application
4	-	-	true	REFER	LEVEL 2	Applicant under debt review

**Figure 46: Output order with compound output**

#### Note 1

Crosstab tables are unique and complete by definition and therefore do not need a hit policy or completeness indication.

#### Note 2

The sequence of the rules in a decision table does not influence the meaning, except in First tables (single hit) and Rule order tables (multiple hit). These tables should be used with care.

## 8.2.12 Completeness indicator

Table completeness is an optional attribute. By default, tables are complete, producing a result for every expected case. If not, the indicator SHOULD read I(ncomplete).

Incomplete tables may specify a default output. The default value is underlined in the list of output values.

## 8.3 Metamodel

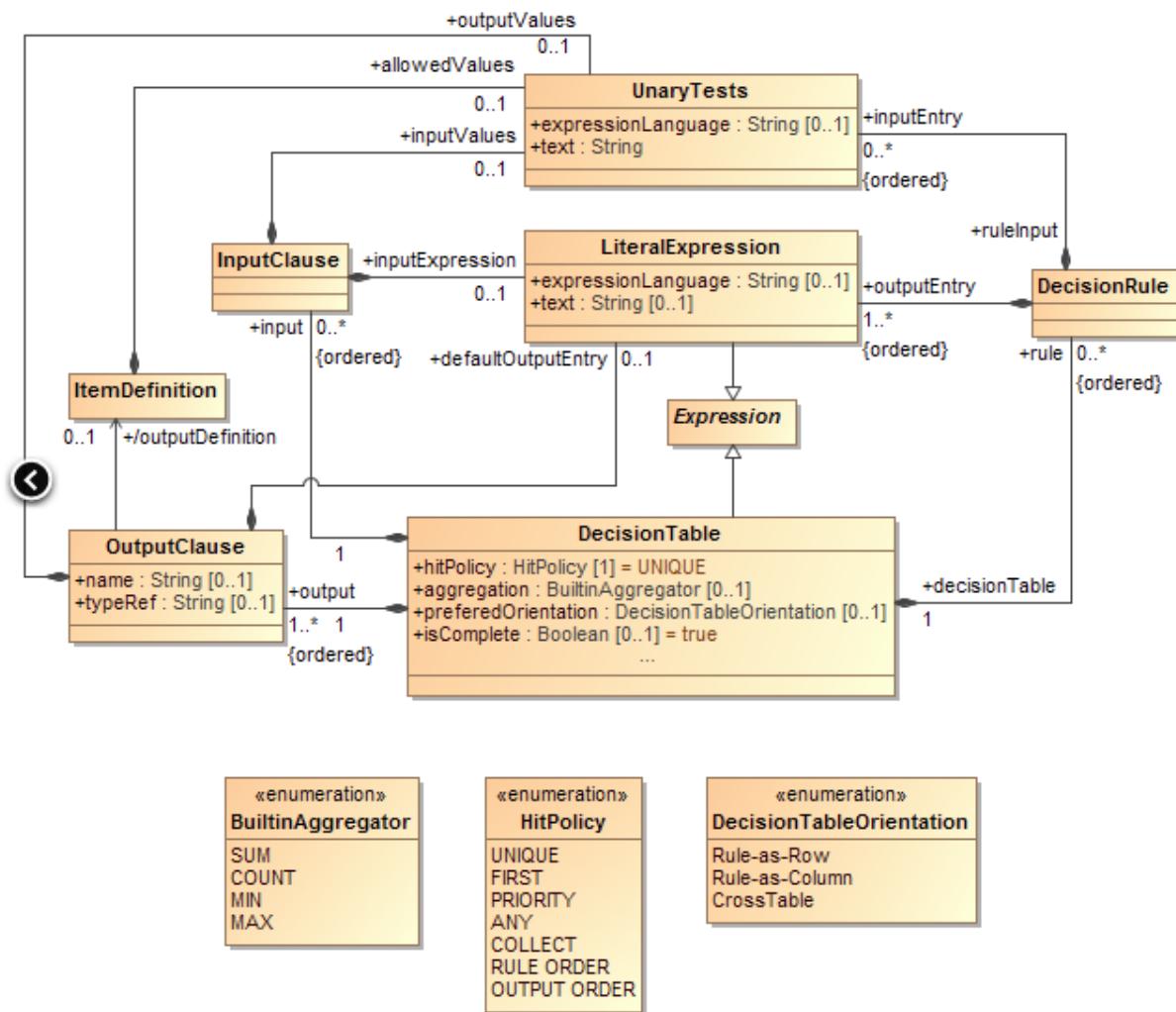


Figure 47: `DecisionTable` class diagram

### 8.3.1 Decision Table metamodel

In **DMN 1.0**, the class `DecisionTable` is used to model a decision table.

`DecisionTable` is a concrete specialization of `Expression`.

An instance of `DecisionTable` contains a set of rules, which are instances of `DecisionRule`, a set of inputs, which are instances of `InputClause`, and a set of outputs, which are instances of `OutputClause`.

It has a `preferredOrientation`, which **SHALL** be one of the enumerated `DecisionTableOrientation`: `Rule-as-Row`, `Rule-as-Column` or `CrossTable`. An instance of `DecisionTable` **SHOULD BE** represented as specified by its `preferredOrientation`, as defined in clause 8.2.2.

An instance of `DecisionTable` has an associated `hitPolicy`, which **SHALL** be one of the enumerated `HitPolicy`: `UNIQUE`, `FIRST`, `PRIORITY`, `ANY`, `COLLECT`, `RULE ORDER`, `OUTPUT ORDER`. The default value for the `hitPolicy` attribute is: `UNIQUE`. In the diagrammatic representation of an instance of `DecisionTable`, the `hitPolicy` is represented as specified in clause 8.2.11.

The semantics that is associated with an instance of `DecisionTable` depends on its associated `hitPolicy`, as specified below and in clause 8.2.11. The `hitPolicy` attribute of an instance of `DecisionTable` is represented as specified in clause 8.2.11.

If the `hitPolicy` associated with an instance of `DecisionTable` is `FIRST` or `RULE ORDER`, the rules that are associated with the `DecisionTable` **SHALL** be ordered. The ordering is represented by the explicit numbering of the rules in the diagrammatic representation of the `DecisionTable`.

If the `hitPolicy` associated with an instance of `DecisionTable` is `PRIORITY` or `OUTPUT ORDER`, the `outputEntry` of one of the outputs in the `DecisionTable` **SHALL** be ordered, and these `outputEntries` **SHALL** be associated as conclusions to the rules in the `DecisionTable`. In the diagrammatic representation of the `DecisionTable`, the ordering is represented as specified in clause 8.2.11.

If the `hitPolicy` that is associated with an instance of `DecisionTable` is `COLLECT`, the `DecisionTable` **MAY** have an associated aggregation, which is one of the enumerated `BuiltinAggregator` (see clause 8.2.11).

As a kind of `Expression`, an instance of `DecisionTable` has a value, which depends on the conclusions of the associated rules, the associated `hitPolicy` and the associated aggregation, if any. The value of an instance of `DecisionTable` is determined according to the following specification:

- if the associated `hitPolicy` is `UNIQUE`, the value of an instance of `DecisionTable` is the value of the conclusion of the only applicable rule (see clause 8.3.3, `Decision Rule`, for the definition of rule applicability);
- if the associated `hitPolicy` is `FIRST`, the value of an instance of `DecisionTable` is the value of the conclusion of the first applicable rule, according to the rule ordering;
- if the associated `hitPolicy` is `PRIORITY`, the value of an instance of `DecisionTable` is the value of the conclusion of the first applicable rule, according to the ordering of the `outputEntry` in the list of output values;
- if the associated `hitPolicy` is `ANY`, the value of an instance of `DecisionTable` is the value of any of the applicable rules;
- if the associated `hitPolicy` is `COLLECT` and an aggregation is specified, the value of an instance of `DecisionTable` is the result of applying the aggregation function specified by the `aggregation` attribute of the `DecisionTable` to the unordered set of the values of the conclusions of all the applicable rules; if the `aggregation` attribute is not specified, the value of the decision table is the unordered set itself;
- if the associated `hitPolicy` is `RULE ORDER`, the value of an instance of `DecisionTable` is the list of the values of the conclusions of all the applicable rules, ordered according to the rule ordering;

- if the associated `hitPolicy` is `OUTPUT ORDER`, the value of an instance of `DecisionTable` is the list of the values of the conclusions of all the applicable rules, ordered according to the ordering of the `outputEntry` in the conclusion.

`DecisionTable` has an optional Boolean attribute `isComplete`. If an instance of `DecisionTable` has an `isComplete` attribute, the value of the attribute SHALL be *false* if the `DecisionTable` is not *complete*. An instance of `DecisionTable` is said to be *complete* if and only if, for any valid binding of the `DecisionTable` `inputVariables`, at least one of the `DecisionTable` rules is applicable (see also clause 8.2.12).

`DecisionTable` has an optional Boolean attribute `isConsistent`. If an instance of `DecisionTable` has an `isConsistent` attribute, the value of the attribute SHALL be *false* unless the `DecisionTable` is *consistent*. An instance of `DecisionTable` is said to be *consistent* if and only if, for any valid binding of the `DecisionTable` `inputVariables`, all the applicable rules have the same value.

`DecisionTable` inherits all the attributes and model associations from `Expression`. Table 23 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the `DecisionTable` element.

**Table 23: `DecisionTable` attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>input:</b> <code>InputClause</code> [*]	This attribute lists the instances of <code>InputClause</code> that compose this <code>DecisionTable</code> .
<b>output:</b> <code>OutputClause</code> [*]	This attribute lists the instances of <code>OutputClause</code> that compose this <code>DecisionTable</code> .
<b>rule:</b> <code>DecisionRule</code> [*]	This attribute lists the instances of <code>DecisionRule</code> that compose this <code>DecisionTable</code> .
<b>hitPolicy:</b> <code>HitPolicy</code>	The hit policy that determines the semantics of this <code>DecisionTable</code> . Default is: <code>UNIQUE</code> .
<b>aggregation:</b> <code>BuiltinAggregator</code>	If present, this attribute specifies the aggregation function to be applied to the unordered set of values of the applicable rules to determine the value of this <code>DecisionTable</code> when the <code>hitPolicy</code> is <code>COLLECT</code> .
<b>isComplete:</b> Boolean [0..1]	If present, this attribute SHALL be <i>false</i> unless this <code>DecisionTable</code> is <i>complete</i> . Default is: <i>false</i> .
<b>isConsistent:</b> Boolean [0..1]	If present, this attribute SHALL be <i>false</i> unless this <code>DecisionTable</code> is <i>consistent</i> . Default is: <i>false</i> .
<b>preferredOrientation:</b> <code>DecisionTableOrientation</code> [0..1]	The preferred orientation for the diagrammatic representation of this <code>DecisionTable</code> . This <code>DecisionTable</code> SHOULD BE represented as specified by this attribute.

## 8.3.2 Decision Table Input and Output Metamodel

In a `DecisionTable`, an `input` specifies an `inputExpression` (the subject) and a number of `inputEntries`. An `output` specifies the name and the domain of definition of an output value, a number of `outputEntries`.

The class `InputClause` is used to model a decision table `input`, and the class `OutputClause` is used to model a decision table `output`.

An instance of `InputClause` is made of an optional `inputExpression` and an ordered list of `inputEntry`, which are instances of `UnaryTests`. An instance of `OutputClause` references an `outputDefinition`, which is an instance of `ItemDefinition`, and it is made of an ordered list of `outputEntry`, which are instances of `Expression`, and an optional `defaultOutputEntry`, which is also an instance of `Expression`.

An instance of `InputClause` or `OutputClause` may have a `name`, which is a `String`. If an `output` element that references an `outputDefinition` does not have a `name`, its default name is the name of the referenced `ItemDefinition` element.

The `inputEntry` elements SHALL test the value of its containing `input`'s `inputExpression`. The datatype of the `Expression` defined by concatenating the `inputExpression` and `inputEntry` element SHALL therefore be `boolean`, either true or false (satisfied or not satisfied), or an equivalent in the `expressionLanguage`.

The datatype of an `outputEntry` SHALL be consistent with datatype specified by the `typeRef` of the containing `output`. Tables 25a and 25b present the attributes and model associations of `DTinput` and `DToutput`.

**Table 24a: `InputClause` attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<code>inputExpression</code> : <code>Expression</code> [0..1]	The subject of this <code>InputClause</code> .
<code>name</code> : <code>String</code> [0..1]	The name of this <code>InputClause</code> .
<code>inputEntry</code> : <code>Expression</code> [*]	This attribute lists the instances of <code>Expression</code> that compose this <code>InputClause</code> .

**Table 25b: `OutputClause` attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<code>typeRef</code> : <code>String</code> [0..1]	A pointer to a specification of the datatype of the possible values for this output, either an <code>ItemDefinition</code> , a base type in the specified <code>expressionLanguage</code> , or an imported type..
<code>name</code> : <code>String</code> [0..1]	The name of this <code>OutputClause</code> .
<code>outputEntry</code> : <code>Expression</code> [*]	This attribute lists the instances of <code>Expression</code> that compose this <code>OutputClause</code> .
<code>defaultOutputEntry</code> : <code>Expression</code> [0..1]	In an Incomplete table, this attribute lists an instance of <code>Expression</code> that is selected when no rules match for the <code>DecisionTable</code> .

### 8.3.3 Decision Rule metamodel

In **DMN 1.0**, the class `DecisionRule` is used to model the rules in a decision table (see clause 8.2).

An instance of `DecisionRule` has a set of conditions and a non-empty set of conclusions, which are all instances of `Expression`.

An instance of `Expression` that is referenced by an instance of `DecisionRule` as a condition SHALL be associated with a containing input in which it is an `inputEntry`. In the same way, an instance of `Expression` that is referenced by an instance of `DecisionRule` as a conclusion SHALL be associated with a containing output in which it is an `outputEntry`.

A `DecisionRule` element SHALL not have more than one conclusion contained in the same output.

In a tabular representation of the containing instance of `DecisionTable`, the representation of an instance of `DecisionRule` depends on the orientation of the decision table. For instance, if the decision table is represented horizontally (rules as row, see clause 8.2.2), instances of `DecisionRule` are represented as rows, with all the conditions represented on the left of all the conclusions.

By definition, a `DecisionRule` element that has no conditions is always applicable. Otherwise, given a set of values for its `inputExpressions`, an instance of `DecisionRule` is said to be applicable if and only if, for each `input` element that contains at least one of the rule's conditions, at least one of the rule's conditions that is contained in that `input` is true. Equivalently, in logical terms, a `DecisionRule` element is said to be applicable if the conjunction is true where there is a conjunct per `InputClause` element that has at least one `inputEntry` referenced as a condition by the `DecisionRule` element, and each conjunct is a disjunction of all the rule's conditions that are contained in the same `InputClause` element.

Table 26 presents the attributes and model associations of the `DecisionRule` element.

**Table 26: `DecisionRule` attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>condition:</b> <code>Expression</code> [*]	This attribute lists the instances of <code>Expression</code> that compose the conditions of this <code>DecisionRule</code> .
<b>conclusion:</b> <code>Expression</code> [1..*]	This attribute lists the instances of <code>Expression</code> that compose the conclusions of this <code>DecisionRule</code> .

## 8.4 Examples

Table 27 provides examples for the various types of decision table discussed in this section. Further examples may be found in 11.3, in the context of a complete example of a **DMN** decision model.

**Table 27: Examples of decision tables**

Single Hit Unique	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">Applicant Risk Rating</th> </tr> <tr> <th>U</th><th>Applicant Age</th><th>Medical History</th><th colspan="2">Applicant Risk Rating</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td rowspan="2">&gt; 60</td><td>good</td><td colspan="2">Medium</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>bad</td><td colspan="2">High</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>[25..60]</td><td>-</td><td colspan="2">Medium</td></tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td rowspan="6">&lt; 25</td><td>good</td><td colspan="2">Low</td></tr> <tr> <td>5</td><td>bad</td><td colspan="2" rowspan="2">Medium</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Applicant Risk Rating</th></tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Applicant Age</th><th>&lt; 25</th><th>[25..60]</th><th colspan="2">&gt; 60</th></tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Medical History</th><th>good</th><th>bad</th><th>-</th><th>good</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <th colspan="2">Applicant Risk Rating</th><th>Low</th><th>Medium</th><th>Medium</th><th>Medium</th></tr> <tr> <th>U</th><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Applicant Risk Rating</th></tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Applicant Age</th><th>&lt; 25</th><th>[25..60]</th><th colspan="2">&gt; 60</th></tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">Medical History</th><th>good</th><th>bad</th><th>-</th><th>good</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Low</td><td>X</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Medium</td><td></td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>High</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td></tr> <tr> <th>U</th><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Applicant Risk Rating					U	Applicant Age	Medical History	Applicant Risk Rating		1	> 60	good	Medium		2	bad	High		3	[25..60]	-	Medium		4	< 25	good	Low		5	bad	Medium		Applicant Risk Rating						Applicant Age		< 25	[25..60]	> 60		Medical History		good	bad	-	good	Applicant Risk Rating		Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	U	1	2	3	4	5	Applicant Risk Rating						Applicant Age		< 25	[25..60]	> 60		Medical History		good	bad	-	good	Low	X	-	-	-	-	Medium		X	X	X		High					X	U	1	2	3	4	5
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Single Hit Any	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">Person Loan Compliance</th> </tr> <tr> <th>A</th> <th>Persons Credit Rating from Bureau</th> <th>Person Credit Card Balance</th> <th>Person Education Loan Balance</th> <th>Person Loan Compliance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>A</td> <td>&lt; 10000</td> <td>&lt; 50000</td> <td>Compliant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Not(A)</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>Not Compliant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>&gt;= 10000</td> <td>-</td> <td>Not Compliant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>&gt;= 50000</td> <td>Not Compliant</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Person Loan Compliance					A	Persons Credit Rating from Bureau	Person Credit Card Balance	Person Education Loan Balance	Person Loan Compliance	1	A	< 10000	< 50000	Compliant	2	Not(A)	-	-	Not Compliant	3	-	>= 10000	-	Not Compliant	4	-	-	>= 50000	Not Compliant																																																																											
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Single Hit Priority	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Applicant Risk Rating</th></tr> <tr> <th>P</th><th>Applicant Age</th><th>Medical History</th><th>Applicant Risk Rating</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td><i>High, Medium, Low</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td><math>\geq 25</math></td><td><i>good</i></td><td><i>Medium</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td><math>&gt; 60</math></td><td><i>bad</i></td><td><i>High</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>-</td><td><i>bad</i></td><td><i>Medium</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td><math>&lt; 25</math></td><td><i>good</i></td><td><i>Low</i></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Applicant Risk Rating				P	Applicant Age	Medical History	Applicant Risk Rating				<i>High, Medium, Low</i>	1	$\geq 25$	<i>good</i>	<i>Medium</i>	2	$> 60$	<i>bad</i>	<i>High</i>	3	-	<i>bad</i>	<i>Medium</i>	4	$< 25$	<i>good</i>	<i>Low</i>																								
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Single Hit First	<p><i>Example case:</i> Web, non-US, Retailer -&gt; 0 (rule 3)</p>																																																				
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Multiple Hit No order	<p><i>Example case:</i> Age=58, Service=31 -&gt; Result=sum(22, 5, 3)=30</p>																																																				

Multiple Hit Output order	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Holidays</th> </tr> <tr> <th>O</th><th>Age</th><th>Years of Service</th><th>Holidays</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>22, 5, 3, 2</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>&gt;= 60</td><td>-</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>&gt;= 30</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>&lt; 18</td><td>-</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>&gt;= 60</td><td>-</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>-</td><td>&gt;= 30</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>[18..60)</td><td>[15..30)</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>[45..60)</td><td>&lt; 30</td><td>2</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Example case: Age=58, Service=31 -&gt; Result=(22, 5, 3)</i></p>	Holidays				O	Age	Years of Service	Holidays				22, 5, 3, 2	1	-	-	22	2	>= 60	-	3	3	-	>= 30	3	4	< 18	-	5	5	>= 60	-	5	6	-	>= 30	5	7	[18..60)	[15..30)	2	8	[45..60)	< 30	2
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# 9 Simple Expression Language (S-FEEL)

**DMN 1.0** defines the friendly enough expression language (FEEL) for the purpose of giving standard executable semantics to many kinds of expressions in decision model (see clause 10).

This section defines a simple subset of FEEL, S-FEEL, for the purpose of giving standard executable semantics to decision models that use only simple expressions: in particular, decision models where the decision logic is modeled mostly or only using decision tables

## 9.1 S-FEEL syntax

The syntax for the S-FEEL expressions used in this section is specified in the EBNF below: it is a subset of the FEEL syntax and the production numbering is from the FEEL EBNF, clause 10.3.1.2.

### Grammar rules:

- 1 expression = simple expression;
- 4 arithmetic expression =
  - 4.a addition | subtraction |
  - 4.b multiplication | division |
  - 4.c exponentiation |
  - 4.d arithmetic negation ;
- 5 simple expression = arithmetic expression | simple value | comparison;
- 6 simple expressions = simple expression , { "," , simple expression } ;
- 7 simple positive unary test =
  - 7.a [ "<" | "<=" | ">" | ">=" ] , endpoint |
  - 7.b interval ;
- 8 interval = ( open interval start | closed interval start ) , endpoint , ".." , endpoint , ( open interval end | closed interval end ) ;
- 9 open interval start = "(" | ")" ;
- 10 closed interval start = "[" ;
- 11 open interval end = ")" | "[" ;
- 12 closed interval end = "]" ;
- 13 simple positive unary tests = simple positive unary test , { "," , simple positive unary test } ;
- 14 simple unary tests =
  - 14.a simple positive unary tests |
  - 14.b "not", "(", simple positive unary tests, ")" |
  - 14.c "-";
- 18 endpoint = simple value ;
- 19 simple value = qualified name | simple literal ;
- 20 qualified name = name , { "." , name } ;
- 21 addition = expression , "+" , expression ;

```

22 subtraction = expression , "-" , expression ;
23 multiplication = expression , "*" , expression ;
24 division = expression , "/" , expression ;
25 exponentiation = expression , "**" , expression ;
26 arithmetic negation = "-" , expression ;
27 name = name start , { name part | additional name symbols } ;
28 name start = name start char, { name part char } ;
29 name part = name part char , { name part char } ;
30 name start char = "?" | [A-Z] | "_" | [a-z] | [\u0C0-\uD6] | [\uD8-\uF6] | [\uF8-\u2FF] | [\u370-\u37D] | [\u37F-\u1FFF] |
[\u200C-\u200D] | [\u2070-\u218F] | [\u2C00-\u2FEF] | [\u3001-\uD7FF] | [\uF900-\uFDCC] | [\uFDF0-\uFFFD] |
[\u10000-\uEFFFF] ;
31 name part char = name start char | digit | \uB7 | [\u0300-\u036F] | [\u203F-\u2040] ;
32 additional name symbols = "." | "/" | "-" | ":" | "+" | "*" ;
33 simple literal = numeric literal | string literal | Boolean literal | date time literal ;
34 string literal = "" , { character – (" " | vertical space) } , "" ;
35 Boolean literal = "true" | "false" ;
36 numeric literal = digits , [ ".", digits ] | ".", digits ;
37 digit = [0-9] ;
38 digits = digit , {digit} ;
39 date time literal = ("date" | "time" | "duration") , "(" , string literal , ")" ;
51 comparison =
51.a expression, ( "=" | "!=" | "<" | "<=" | ">" | ">=" ) , expression;

```

## 9.2 S-FEEL data types

S-FEEL supports all FEEL data types: *number*, *string*, *boolean*, *days and time duration*, *years and months duration*, *time* and *date*, although with a simplified definition for some of them.

S-FEEL *number* has the same literal and values spaces as the XML Schema decimal datatype. Implementations are allowed to limit precision to 34 decimal digits and to round toward the nearest neighbor with ties favoring the even neighbor. Notice that “*precision is not reflected in this value space: the number 2.0 is not distinct from the number 2.00*” [XML Schema]. Notice, also, that this value space is totally ordered. The definition of S-FEEL *number* is a simplification over the definition of FEEL *number*.

S-FEEL supports FEEL *string* and FEEL *Boolean*: FEEL *string* has the same literal and values spaces as the Java String and XML Schema string datatypes. FEEL *boolean* has the same literal and values spaces as the Java Boolean and XML Schema Boolean datatypes.

S-FEEL supports the FEEL *time* data type. The lexical and value spaces of FEEL *time* are the literal and value spaces of the [XML Schema](#) time datatype. Notice that, “*since the lexical representation allows an optional time zone indicator, time values are partially ordered because it may not be able to determine the order of two values one of which has a time zone and the other does not. Pairs of time values with or without time zone indicators are totally ordered*” [XSD].

S-FEEL does not support FEEL date and time. However, it supports the *date* type, which is like FEEL *date and time* with hour, minute, and second required to be absent. The lexical and value spaces of FEEL *date* are the literal and value spaces of the [XML Schema](#) date datatype.

S-FEEL supports the FEEL *days and time duration* and *years and months duration* datatypes. FEEL *days and time duration* and *years and months duration* have the same literal and value spaces as the [XPath Data Model](#) dayTimeDuration and yearMonthDuration datatypes, respectively. That is, FEEL *days and time duration* is derived from the XML Schema duration datatype by restricting its lexical representation to contain only the days, hours, minutes and seconds components, and FEEL *years and months duration* is derived from the XML Schema duration datatype by restricting its lexical representation to contain only the year and month components.

The FEEL data types are specified in details in clause 10.3.2.2.

## 9.3 S-FEEL semantics

S-FEEL contains only a limited set of basic features that are common to most expression and programming languages, and on the semantics of which most expression and programming languages agree.

The semantics of S-FEEL expressions are defined in this section, in terms of the semantics of the XML Schema datatypes and the XQuery 1.0 and XPath 2.0 Data Model datatypes, and in terms of the corresponding functions and operators defined by XQuery 1.0 and XPath 2.0 Functions and Operators (prefixed by “op:” below). A complete stand-alone specification of the semantics is to be found in clause 10.3.2, as part of the definition of FEEL. Within the scope of S-FEEL, the two definitions are equivalent and equally normative.

Arithmetic addition and subtraction (grammar rule 4a) have the same semantics as:

- op:numeric-add and op:numeric-subtract, when its two operands are numbers;
- op:add-yearMonthDurations and op:subtract-yearMonthDurations, when the two operands are years and months durations;
- op:add-dayTimeDuration and subtract:dayTimeDurations, when the two operands are days and time durations;
- op:add-yearMonthDuration-to-date and op:subtract-yearMonthDuration-from-date, when the first operand is a years and months duration and the second operand is a date;
- op:add-dayTimeDuration-to-date and op:subtract-dayTimeDuration-from-date, when the first operand is a days and time duration and the second operand is a date;
- op:add-dayTimeDuration-to-time and op:subtract-dayTimeDuration-from-time, when the first operand is a days and time duration and the second operand is a time.

In addition, arithmetic subtraction has the semantics of op:subtract-dates or op:subtract-times, when the two operands are dates or times, respectively.

Arithmetic addition and subtraction are not defined in other cases.

Arithmetic multiplication and division (grammar rule 4b) have the same semantics as defined for op:numeric-multiply and op:numeric-divide, respectively, when the two operands are numbers. They are not defined otherwise. Arithmetic exponentiation (grammar rule 4c) is defined as the result of raising the first operand to the power of the second operand, when the two operands are numbers. It is not defined in other cases.

Arithmetic negation (grammar rule 4d) is defined only when its operand is a number: in that case, its semantics is according to the specification of op:numeric-unary-minus.

Comparison operators (grammar rule 7.a) between numbers are defined according to the specification of op:numeric-equal, op:numeric-less-than and op:numeric-greater-than, comparisons between dates are defined according to the specification of op:date-equal, op:date-less-than and op:date-greater-than; comparisons between times are defined according to the specification of op:time-equal, op:time-less-than and op:time-greater-than; comparisons between years and months durations are defined according to the specification of op:duration-equal, op:yearMonthDuration-less-than and op:year-MonthDuration-greater-than; comparisons between days and time durations are defined according to the specification of op:duration-equal, op:dayTimeDuration-less-than and op:dayTimeDuration-greater-than.

String and Booleans can only be compared for equality: the semantics of strings and Booleans equality is as defined in the specification of fn:codepoint-equal and op:Boolean-equal, respectively.

Comparison operators are defined only when the two operands have the same type, except for years and months duration and days and time duration, which can be compared for equality. Notice, however, that “*with the exception of the zero-length duration, no instance of xs:dayTimeDuration can ever be equal to an instance of xs:yearMonthDuration.*” [XFO].

Given an expression o to be tested and two endpoint e1 and e2:

- is in the interval (e1..e2), also notated ]e1..e2[, if and only if  $o > e1$  and  $o < e2$
- is in the interval (e1..e2], also notated ]e1..e2], if and only if  $o > e1$  and  $o \leq e2$
- is in the interval [e1..e2] if and only if  $o \geq e1$  and  $o \leq e2$
- is in the interval [e1..e2), also notated [e1..e2[, if and only if  $o \geq e1$  and  $o < e2$

An expression to be tested satisfies an instance of simple unary tests (grammar rule 14) if and only if, either the expression is a list and the expression satisfies at least one simple unitary test in the list, or the simple unitary tests is “-”.

## 9.4 Use of S-FEEL expressions

This section summarizes which kinds of S-FEEL expressions are allowed in which role, when the expression language is S-FEEL.

### 9.4.1 Item definitions

The expression that defines an **allowed value** SHALL be a *simple unary test* (grammar rule 7), where only the values in the defined or referenced type that satisfy the test are allowed values.

### 9.4.2 Invocations

In the bindings of an invocation, the **binding formula** SHALL be a *simple expression* (grammar rule 5).

### 9.4.3 Decision tables

Each **input expression** SHALL be a *simple expression* (grammar rule 5).

Each list of **input values** SHALL be an instance of *simple unary tests* (grammar rule 14).

Each list of **output values** SHALL be an instance of *simple unary tests* (grammar rule 14).

Each **input entry** SHALL be a *simple positive unary test* (grammar rule 7), where the value that is tested is the value of the input expression of the containing clause. If a rule has multiple disjunctive conditions applying to the same input expression, the expression in the corresponding decision table cell SHALL be an instance of *simple unary tests* (grammar rule 14).

Each **output entry** SHALL be a *simple expression* (grammar rule 5).

# 10 Expression Language (FEEL)

## 10.1 Introduction

In **DMN**, all decision logic is represented as *boxed expressions*. Clause 7.2 introduced the concept of the boxed expression and defined two simple kinds: boxed literal expressions and boxed invocations. Clause 8 defined decision tables, a very important kind of boxed expression. This section completes the graphical notation for decision logic, by defining other kinds of boxed expressions.

The expressions 'in the boxes' are FEEL expressions. FEEL stands for Friendly Enough Expression Language and it has the following features:

- Side-effect free
- Simple data model with numbers, dates, strings, lists, and contexts
- Simple syntax designed for a wide audience
- Three-valued logic (**true**, **false**, **null**) based on SQL and PMML

This section also completely specifies the syntax and semantics of FEEL. The syntax is specified as a grammar (10.3.1). The subset of the syntax intended to be rendered graphically as a boxed expression is also specified as a meta-model (10.5).

FEEL has two roles in **DMN**:

1. As a textual notation in the boxes of boxed expressions such as decision tables,
2. As a slightly larger language to represent the logic of expressions and DRGs for the main purpose of composing the semantics in a simple and uniform way

## 10.2 Notation

### 10.2.1 Boxed Expressions

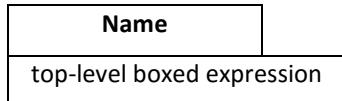
This section builds on the generic notation for decision logic and boxed expressions defined in clause 7.2.

We define a graphical notation for decision logic called **boxed expressions**. This notation serves to decompose the decision logic model into small pieces that can be associated with DRG artifacts. The DRG plus the boxed expressions form a complete, mostly graphical language that completely specifies Decision Models.

A **boxed expression** is either

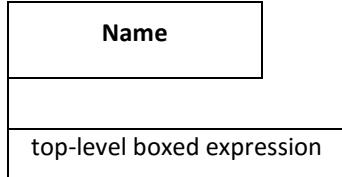
- a **decision table**,
- a **boxed FEEL expression**,
- a **boxed invocation**,
- a **boxed context**,
- a **boxed list**,
- a **relation**, or
- a **boxed function**.

Boxed expressions are defined recursively, *i.e.* boxed expressions can contain other boxed expressions. The top-level boxed expression corresponds to the decision logic of a single DRG artifact. This boxed expression SHALL have a name box that contains the name of the DRG artifact. The name box may be attached in a single box on top, as shown in Figure 48:



**Figure 48: Boxed expression**

Alternatively, the name box and expression box can be separated by white space and connected on the left side with a line, as shown in Figure 49:



**Figure 49: Boxed expression with separated name and expression boxes**

Graphical tools are expected to support appropriate graphical links, for example, clicking on a decision shape opens a decision table.

### 10.2.1.1 Decision Tables

The executable decision tables defined here use the same notation as the decision tables defined in Clause 8. Their execution semantics is defined in clause 10.3.2.8.

### 10.2.1.2 Boxed FEEL expression

A **boxed FEEL expression** is any FEEL expression  $e$ , as defined by the FEEL grammar (clause 10.3.1), in a table cell, as shown in Figure 50:



**Figure 50: Boxed FEEL expression**

The meaning of a boxed expression containing  $e$  is **FEEL( $e$ , s)**, where **s** is the scope. The scope includes the context derived from the containing DRD as described in 10.4, and any boxed contexts containing  $e$ .

It is usually good practice to make  $e$  relatively simple, and compose small boxed expressions into larger boxed expressions.

### 10.2.1.3 Boxed Invocation

The syntax for boxed invocation is described in clause 7.2.3. This syntax may be used to invoke any function (e.g. business knowledge model, FEEL built-in function, boxed function definition).

The box labeled 'invoked business knowledge model' can be any boxed expression whose value is a function, as shown in Figure 51:

Name	
function-valued expression	
parameter 1	binding expression 1
parameter 2	binding expression 2
...	
parameter <i>n</i>	binding expression <i>n</i>

**Figure 51: Boxed invocation**

The boxed syntax maps to the textual syntax defined by grammar rules 40, 41, 42, 43. Boxed invocation uses named parameters. Positional invocation can be achieved using a boxed expression containing a textual positional invocation.

The boxed syntax requires at least one parameter. A parameterless function must be invoked using the textual syntax, e.g. as shown in Figure 52.

function-valued expression()
------------------------------

**Figure 52: Parameterless function**

Formally, the meaning of a boxed invocation is given by the semantics of the equivalent textual invocation, *e.g.*, **function-valued expression**(parameter<sub>1</sub>: **binding expression**<sub>1</sub>, parameter<sub>2</sub>: **binding expression**<sub>2</sub>, ...).

#### 10.2.1.4    Boxed Context

A **boxed context** is a collection of *n* (name, value) pairs with an optional result value. Each pair is called a context entry. Context entries may be separated by whitespace and connected with a line on the left (top). The intent is that all the entries of a context should be easily identified by looking down the left edge of a vertical context or across the top edge of a horizontal context. Cells SHALL be arranged in one of the following ways (see Figure 53, Figure 54):

Name 1	Value 1
Name 2	Value 2
Name <i>n</i>	Value <i>n</i>
Result	

**Figure 53: Vertical context**

Name 1	Name 2	Name <i>n</i>		Result
Value 1	Value 2	Value <i>n</i>		

**Figure 54: Horizontal context**

The context entries in a context are often used to decompose a complex expression into simpler expressions, each with a name. These context entries may be thought of as intermediate results. For example, contexts without a final Result box are useful for representing case data (see Figure 55 ).

Applicant Data	
Age	51
MaritalStatus	"M"
EmploymentStatus	"EMPLOYED"
ExistingCustomer	false
Monthly	Income
	Repayments
	Expenses

**Figure 55: Use of context entries**

Contexts with a final result box are useful for representing calculations (see Figure 56).

Eligibility	
Age	Applicant. Age
Monthly Income	Applicant. Monthly. Income
Pre-Bureau Risk Category	Affordability. Pre-Bureau Risk Category
Installment Affordable	Affordability. Installment Affordable
if Pre-Bureau Risk Category = "DECLINE" or Installment Affordable = false or Age < 18 or Monthly Income < 100 then "INELIGIBLE" else "ELIGIBLE"	

**Figure 56: Use of final result box**

When decision tables are (non-result) context entries, the output cell can be used to name the entry, thus saving space. Any format decision table can be used in a vertical context. A jagged right edge is allowed. Whitespace between context entries may be helpful. See Figure 57.

Name 1	Value 1
	Name 2
Name n	Value n
Result	

**Figure 57: Vertical context with decision table entry**

Color is suggested.

The names SHALL be legal FEEL names. The values and optional result are boxed expressions.

Boxed contexts may have a decision table as the result, and use the named context entries to compute the inputs, and give them names. For example (see Figure 58):

Post-Bureau Risk Category				
UC	Existing Customer	Application Risk Score	Credit Score	Post-Bureau Risk Category
1	true	<=120	<590	"HIGH"
2			[590..610]	"MEDIUM"
3			>610	"LOW"
4		>120	<600	"HIGH"
5			[600..625]	"MEDIUM"
6			>625	"LOW"
7	false	<=100	<580	"HIGH"
8			[580..600]	"MEDIUM"
9			>600	"LOW"
10		>100	<590	"HIGH"
11			[590..615]	"MEDIUM"
12			>615	"LOW"

**Figure 58: Use of boxed expressions with a decision table**

Formally, the meaning of a boxed context is { “Name 1”: Value 1, “Name 2”: Value 2, ..., “Name n”: Value n } if no Result is specified. Otherwise, the meaning is { “Name 1”: Value 1, “Name 2”: Value 2, ..., “Name n”: Value n, “result”: Result }.result. Recall that the bold face indicates elements in the FEEL Semantic Domain. The scope includes the context derived from the containing DRG as described in 10.4.

### 10.2.1.5 Boxed List

A **boxed list** is a list of  $n$  items. Cells SHALL be arranged in one of the following ways (see Figure 59, Figure 60):

Item 1
Item 2
Item <i>n</i>

**Figure 59:** Vertical list

Item 1, Item 2, Item <i>n</i>
-------------------------------

**Figure 60:** Horizontal list

Line styles are normative. The items are boxed expressions. Formally, the meaning of a boxed list is just the meaning of the list, i.e. [ Item 1, Item 2, ..., Item *n* ]. The scope includes the context derived from the containing DRG as described in 10.4.

### 10.2.1.6 Relation

A vertical list of homogeneous horizontal contexts (with no result cells) can be displayed with the names appearing just once at the top of the list, like a relational table, as shown in Figure 61:

Name 1	Name 2	Name <i>n</i>
Value 1a	Value 2a	Value <i>na</i>
Value 1b	Value 2b	Value <i>nb</i>
Value 1 <i>m</i>	Value 2 <i>m</i>	Value <i>nm</i>

**Figure 61:** Relation

### 10.2.1.7 Boxed Function

A Boxed Function Definition is the notation for parameterized boxed expressions.

The boxed expression associated with a Business Knowledge Model SHALL be a boxed function definition or a decision table whose input expressions are assumed to be the parameter names.

A boxed function has 3 cells:

1. Kind, containing the initial letter of one of the following:

- FEEL
- PMML
- Java

The Kind box can be omitted for Feel functions, including decision tables.

2. Parameters: 0 or more comma-separated names, in parentheses

### 3. Body: a boxed expression

The 3 cells SHALL be arranged as shown in Figure 62:

K	(Parameter1, Parameter2, ...)
Body	

**Figure 62: Boxed function definition**

For FEEL functions, denoted by Kind `FEEL` or by omission of Kind, the Body SHALL be a FEEL expression that references the parameters. For externally defined functions denoted by Kind `Java`, the Body SHALL be a context as described in 10.3.2.11.2 and the form of the mapping information SHALL be the *java* form. For externally defined functions denoted by Kind `PMML`, the Body SHALL be a context as described in 10.3.2.11.2 and the form of the mapping information SHALL be the *pmml* form.

Formally, the meaning of a boxed function is just the meaning of the function, *i.e.*,  $\text{FEEL}(\text{function}(\text{Parameter1}, \text{Parameter2}, \dots) \text{ Body})$  if the Kind is `FEEL`, and  $\text{FEEL}(\text{function}(\text{Parameter1}, \text{Parameter2}, \dots) \text{ external Body})$  otherwise. The scope includes the context derived from the containing DRG as described in 10.4.

## 10.2.2 FEEL

A subset of FEEL, defined in the next section, serves as the notation "in the boxes" of boxed expressions. A FEEL object is a number, a string, a date, a time, a duration, a function, a context, or a list of FEEL objects (including nested lists).

Note: A JSON object is a number, a string, a context (JSON calls them maps) or a list of JSON objects. So FEEL is an extension of JSON in this regard. In addition, FEEL provides friendlier syntax for literal values, and does not require context keys to be quoted.

Here we give a "feel" for the language by starting with some simple examples.

### 10.2.2.1 Comparison of ranges

Note that ranges and lists of ranges appear in decision table input entry and input value cells. In the examples in Table 28, this portion of the syntax is shown underlined.

**Table 28: FEEL range comparisons**

FEEL Expression	Value
<code>5 in <u>&lt;=</u>5</code>	true
<code>5 in (<u>5..10</u>)</code>	false
<code>5 in [<u>5..10</u>]</code>	true
<code>5 in (<u>4,5,6</u>)</code>	true
<code>5 in ( &lt;5,&gt;5 )</code>	false

Strings, dates, times, and durations also may be compared. Table 29 shows an example:

**Table 29: String, date, time and duration comparisons**

FEEL Expression	Value
<code>2012-12-31 in (2012-12-25..2013-02-14)</code>	true

## 10.2.2.2 Numbers

FEEL numbers and calculations are exemplified in Table 30.

**Table 30: FEEL numbers and calculations**

## 10.3 Full FEEL syntax and semantics

Clause 9 introduced a subset of FEEL sufficient to support decision tables for Conformance Level 2 (see clause 2). The full **DMN** friendly-enough expression language (FEEL) required for Conformance Level 3 is specified here. FEEL is a simple language with inspiration drawn from Java, JavaScript, XPath, SQL, PMML, Lisp, and many others.

The syntax is defined using grammar rules that show how complex expressions are composed of simpler expressions. Likewise, the semantic rules show how the meaning of a complex expression is composed from the meaning of constituent simpler expressions.

**DMN** completely defines the meaning of FEEL expressions that do not invoke externally-defined functions. There are no implementation-defined semantics. FEEL expressions (that do not invoke externally-defined functions) have no side-effects and have the same interpretation in every conformant implementation. Externally-defined functions SHOULD be deterministic and side-effect free.

## 10.3.1 Syntax

FEEL syntax is defined as grammar here and equivalently as a UML Class diagram in the meta-model (10.5).

### 10.3.1.1 Grammar notation

The grammar rules use the [ISO EBNF](#) notation. Each rule defines a non-terminal symbol  $S$  in terms of some other symbols  $S_1, S_2, \dots$ . Symbols may contain spaces. The following table summarizes the EBNF notation.

**Table 31: EBNF notation**

Example	Meaning
$S = S_1 ;$	Symbol $S$ is defined in terms of symbol $S_1$
$S_1 / S_2$	Either $S_1$ or $S_2$
$S_1, S_2$	$S_1$ followed by $S_2$
$[S_1]$	$S_1$ occurring 0 or 1 time
$\{S_1\}$	$S_1$ repeated 0 or more times
$k * S_1$	$S_1$ repeated $k$ times
"and"	literal terminal symbol

We extend the ISO notation with character ranges for brevity, as follows:

A character range has the following EBNF syntax:

```

character range = "[" , low character , "-" , high character , "]";
low character = unicode character ;
high character = unicode character ;
unicode character = simple character | code point ;
code point = "\u" , hexadecimal digit , 4 * [hexadecimal digit] ;
hexadecimal digit = "0" | "1" | "2" | "3" | "4" | "5" | "6" | "7" | "8" | "9" |
                   "a" | "A" | "b" | "B" | "c" | "C" | "d" | "D" | "e" | "E" | "f" | "F" ;

```

A simple character is a single Unicode character, *e.g.* a, 1, \$, *etc.* Alternatively, a character may be specified by its hexadecimal code point value, prefixed with \u.

Every Unicode character has a numeric code point value. The low character in a range must have numeric value less than the numeric value of the high character.

For example, hexadecimal digit can be described more succinctly using character ranges as follows:

```
hexadecimal digit = [0-9] | [a-f] | [A-F] ;
```

Note that the character range that includes all Unicode characters is [\u0-\u10FFFF].

### 10.3.1.2 Grammar rules

The complete FEEL grammar is specified below. Grammar rules are numbered, and in some cases alternatives are lettered, for later reference. Boxed expression syntax (rule 55) is used to give execution semantics to boxed expressions.

1. expression =
  - a. textual expression |
  - b. boxed expression ;
2. textual expression =
  - a. function definition | for expression | if expression | quantified expression |
  - b. disjunction |
  - c. conjunction |
  - d. comparison |
  - e. arithmetic expression |
  - f. instance of |
  - g. path expression |
  - h. filter expression | function invocation |
    - i. literal | simple positive unary test | name | "(" , textual expression , ")" ;
3. textual expressions = textual expression , { "," , textual expression } ;
4. arithmetic expression =
  - a. addition | subtraction |
  - b. multiplication | division |
  - c. exponentiation |
  - d. arithmetic negation ;
5. simple expression = arithmetic expression | simple value ;
6. simple expressions = simple expression , { "," , simple expression } ;
7. simple positive unary test =
  - a. [ "<" | "<=" | ">" | ">=" ] , endpoint |
  - b. interval ;
8. interval = ( open interval start | closed interval start ) , endpoint , ".." , endpoint , ( open interval end | closed interval end ) ;
9. open interval start = "(" | "[" ;
10. closed interval start = "[" ;
11. open interval end = ")" | "[" ;
12. closed interval end = "]" ;
13. simple positive unary tests = simple positive unary test , { "," , simple positive unary test } ;
14. simple unary tests =
  - a. simple positive unary tests |
  - b. "not", "(", simple positive unary tests, ")" |

- c. "-";
- 15. positive unary test = simple positive unary test | "null" ;
- 16. positive unary tests = positive unary test , { "," , positive unary test } ;
- 17. unary tests =
  - a. positive unary tests |
  - b. "not", " (", positive unary tests, ")" |
  - c. "-"
- 18. endpoint = simple value ;
- 19. simple value = qualified name | simple literal ;
- 20. qualified name = name , { "." , name } ;
- 21. addition = expression , "+" , expression ;
- 22. subtraction = expression , "-" , expression ;
- 23. multiplication = expression , "\*" , expression ;
- 24. division = expression , "/" , expression ;
- 25. exponentiation = expression, "\*\*", expression ;
- 26. arithmetic negation = "-", expression ;
- 27. name = name start , { name part | additional name symbols } ;
- 28. name start = name start char, { name part char } ;
- 29. name part = name part char , { name part char } ;
- 30. name start char = "?" | [A-Z] | "\_" | [a-z] | [\u0C0-\uD6] | [\uD8-\uF6] | [\uF8-\u2FF] | [\u370-\u37D] | [\u37F-\u1FFF] | [\u200C-\u200D] | [\u2070-\u218F] | [\u2C00-\u2FEF] | [\u3001-\uD7FF] | [\uF900-\uFDCF] | [\uFDF0-\uFFFD] | [\u10000-\uEFFFF] ;
- 31. name part char = name start char | digit | \uB7 | [\u0300-\u036F] | [\u203F-\u2040] ;
- 32. additional name symbols = "." | "/" | "-" | ":" | "+" | "\*" ;
- 33. literal = simple literal | "null" ;
- 34. simple literal = numeric literal | string literal | Boolean literal | date time literal ;
- 35. string literal = "" , { character – (" " | vertical space) } , "" ;
- 36. Boolean literal = "true" | "false" ;
- 37. numeric literal = digits , [ ".", digits ] | ".", digits ;
- 38. digit = [0-9] ;
- 39. digits = digit , {digit} ;
- 40. function invocation = expression , parameters ;
- 41. parameters = "(" , ( named parameters | positional parameters ) , ")" ;
- 42. named parameters = parameter name , ":" , expression ,
  - { "," , parameter name , ":" , expression } ;
- 43. parameter name = name ;
- 44. positional parameters = [ expression , { "," , expression } ] ;

45. path expression = expression , ".", name ;
46. for expression = "for" , name , "in" , expression { "," , name , "in" , expression } , "return" , expression ;
47. if expression = "if" , expression , "then" , expression , "else" expression ;
48. quantified expression = ("some" | "every") , name , "in" , expression , { name , "in" , expression } , "satisfies" , expression ;
49. disjunction = expression , "or" , expression ;
50. conjunction = expression , "and" , expression ;
51. comparison =
  - a. expression , ( "=" | "!=" | "<" | "<=" | ">" | ">=" ) , expression |
  - b. expression , "between" , expression , "and" , expression |
  - c. expression , "in" , positive unary test ;
  - d. expression , "in" , " (", positive unary tests, ")" ;
52. filter expression = expression , "[" , expression , "]" ;
53. instance of = expression , "instance" , "of" , type ;
54. type = qualified name ;
55. boxed expression = list | function definition | context ;
56. list = "[" [ expression , { "," , expression } ] , "]" ;
57. function definition = "function" , "(" , [ formal parameter { "," , formal parameter } ] , ")" , [ "external" ] , expression ;
58. formal parameter = parameter name ;
59. context = " { " , [ context entry , { "," , context entry } ] , " } " ;
60. context entry = key , ":" , expression ;
61. key = name | string literal ;
62. date time literal = ( "date" | "time" | "date and time" | "duration" ) , "(" , string literal , ")" ;

Additional syntax rules:

- Operator precedence is given by the order of the alternatives in grammar rules 1, 2 and 4, in order from lowest to highest. *E.g.*, (boxed) invocation has higher precedence than multiplication, multiplication has higher precedence than addition, and addition has higher precedence than comparison. Addition and subtraction have equal precedence, and like all FEEL infix binary operators, are left associative.
- A name may contain spaces but may not contain a sequence of 2 or more spaces.
- A name start (grammar rule 28) SHALL NOT be a language keyword. (Language keywords are enclosed in double quotes in the grammar rules, for example, "and", "or", "true", "false".)
- A name part (grammar rule 29) MAY be a language keyword.
- Java-style comments can be used, *i.e.* // to end of line and /\* ... \*/.

### 10.3.1.3 Literals, data types, built-in functions

FEEL supports literal syntax for numbers, strings, booleans, and *null*. (See grammar rules, clause 10.3.1.2). Literals can be mapped directly to values in the FEEL semantic domain (clause 10.3.2.1).

FEEL supports the following datatypes:

- number
- string
- boolean
- days and time duration
- years and months duration
- time
- date and time

Duration and date/time datatypes have no literal syntax. They must be constructed from a string representation using a built-in function (10.3.4.1).

#### 10.3.1.4 Contexts, Lists, Qualified Names, and Context Lists

A context is a map of key-value pairs called context entries, and is written using curly braces to delimit the context, commas to separate the entries, and a colon to separate key and value (grammar rule 59). The key can be a string or a name. The value is an expression.

A list is written using square brackets to delimit the list, and commas to separate the list items (grammar rule 56). A singleton list is equal to its single item, *i.e.*,  $[e]=e$  for all FEEL expressions  $e$ .

Contexts and lists can reference other contexts and lists, giving rise to a directed acyclic graph. Naming is path based. The *qualified name* (QN) of a context entry is of the form  $N_1.N_2 \dots N_n$  where  $N_i$  is the name of an in-scope context.

Nested lists encountered in the interpretation of  $N_1.N_2 \dots N_n$  are preserved. *E.g.*,

```
[[{a: [{b: 1}, {b: [2.1, 2.2]}]}, {a: [{b: 3}, {b: 4}, {b: 5}]}].a.b =  
[[{b: 1}, {b: [2.1, 2.2]}], [{b: 3}, {b: 4}, {b: 5}]].b =  
[[1, [2.1, 2.1]], [3, 4, 5]]
```

Nested lists can be flattened using the *flatten()* built-in function (10.3.4).

#### 10.3.1.5 Ambiguity

Names of context entries and function parameters can contain commonly used characters such as space and apostrophe (but cannot contain a colon or comma (':' or ','')). This naming freedom makes FEEL's syntax ambiguous. Ambiguity is resolved using the scope. Names are matched from left to right against the names in-scope, and the longest match is preferred. In the case where the longest match is not desired, parenthesis or other punctuation (that is not allowed in a name) can be used to disambiguate a FEEL expression. For example, to subtract b from a if 'a-b' is the name of an in-scope context entry, one could write

(a) - (b)

### 10.3.2 Semantics

FEEL semantics is specified by mapping syntax fragments to values in the FEEL semantic domain. Literals (clause 10.3.1.3) can be mapped directly. Expressions composed of literals are mapped to values in the semantic domain using simple logical and arithmetic operations on the mapped literal values. In general, the semantics of any FEEL expression are composed from the semantics of its sub-expressions.

#### 10.3.2.1 Semantic Domain

The FEEL semantic domain **D** consists of an infinite number of values of the following *kinds*: functions, lists, contexts, ranges, datatypes, and the distinguished value **null**. Each kind is disjoint (*e.g.* a value cannot be both a number and a list).

A function is a lambda expression with lexical closure or is externally defined by Java or PMML. A list is an ordered collection of domain elements, and a context is a partially ordered collection of (string, value) pairs called context entries.

We use *italics* to denote syntactic elements and **boldface** to denote semantic elements. For example,

FEEL( $I+I$ ,  $2+2$ ) is **[2, 4]**

Note that we use bold [] to denote a list in the FEEL semantic domain, and bold numbers **2, 4** to denote those decimal values in the FEEL semantic domain.

### 10.3.2.2 Equality, Identity and Equivalence

The semantics of equality are specified in the semantic mappings in clause 10.3.2.12. In general, the values to be compared must be of the same kind, for example, both numbers, to obtain a non-null result.

Identity simply compares whether two objects in the semantic domain are the same object. We denote the test for identity using infix **is**, and its negation using infix **is not**. For example, FEEL("1" =  $I$ ) **is null**. Note that **is** never results in **null**.

Every FEEL expression  $e$  in scope  $s$  can be mapped to an element  $e$  in the FEEL semantic domain. This mapping defines the meaning of  $e$  in  $s$ . The mapping may be written  $e$  **is** FEEL( $e, s$ ). Two FEEL expressions  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  are equivalent in scope  $s$  if and only if FEEL( $e_1, s$ ) **is** FEEL( $e_2, s$ ). When  $s$  is understood from context (or not important), we may abbreviate the equivalence as  $e_1$  **is**  $e_2$ . Sometimes, when sure that  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  are comparable and not null, we may write  $e_1 = e_2$ .

### 10.3.2.3 Semantics of literals and datatypes

FEEL datatypes are listed in 10.3.2.2. The meaning of the datatypes includes

1. a mapping from a literal form (which in some cases is a string) to a value in the semantic domain
2. a precise definition of the set of semantic domain values belonging to the datatype, and the operations on them.

Each datatype describes a (possibly infinite) set of values. The sets for the datatypes defined below are disjoint.

We use *italics* to indicate a literal and **boldface** to indicate a value in the semantic domain.

#### 10.3.2.3.1 number

FEEL Numbers are based on [IEEE 754-2008](#) Decimal128 format, with 34 decimal digits of precision and rounding toward the nearest neighbor with ties favoring the even neighbor. Numbers are a restriction of the XML Schema type [precisionDecimal](#), and are equivalent to Java [BigDecimal](#) with [MathContext DECIMAL128](#).

Grammar rule 37 defines literal numbers. Literals consist of base 10 digits and an optional decimal point. -INF, +INF, and NaN literals are not supported. There is no distinction between

-0 and 0. The *number*(*from*, *grouping separator*, *decimal separator*) built-in function supports a richer literal format. E.g. FEEL(*number*("1.000.000,01", ".", ",")) = **1000000.01**.

FEEL does not support a literal scientific notation. E.g., 1.2e3 is not valid FEEL syntax. Use  $1.2 \times 10^{3}$  instead.

A FEEL number is represented in the semantic domain as a pair of integers (**p,s**) such that **p** is a signed 34 digit integer carrying the precision information, and **s** is the scale, in the range [-6111..6176]. Each such pair represents the number  $p/10^s$ . To indicate the numeric value, we write **value(p,s)**. E.g. **value(100,2) = 1**. If precision is not of concern, we may write the value as simply **1**. Note that many different pairs have the same value. For example, **value(1,0) = value(10,1) = value(100,2)**.

There is no value for notANumber, positiveInfinity, or negativeInfinity. Use **null** instead.

#### 10.3.2.3.2 string

Grammar rule 35 defines literal strings as a double-quoted sequence of characters, e.g. "abc".

The literal string "abc" is mapped to the semantic domain as a sequence of three Unicode characters **a, b, and c**, written "abc".

### 10.3.2.3.3 boolean

The Boolean literals are given by grammar rule 36. The values in the semantic domain are **true** and **false**.

### 10.3.2.3.4 time

FEEL does not have time literals, although we use boldface time literals to represent values in the semantic domain. Times can be expressed using a string literal and the *time()* built-in function. (See 10.3.4.1.)

A time in the semantic domain is a value of the [XML Schema](#) time datatype. It can be represented by a sequence of numbers for the hour, minute, second, and an optional time offset from Universal Coordinated Time (UTC). If a time offset is specified, including time offset = 00:00, the time value has a UTC form and is comparable to all time values that have UTC forms. If no time offset is specified, the time is interpreted as a local time of day at some location, whose relationship to UTC time is dependent on time zone rules for that location, and may vary from day to day. A local time of day value is only sometimes comparable to UTC time values, as described in [XML Schema](#) Part 2 Datatypes.

A time **t** can also be represented as the number of seconds since midnight. We write this as **value<sub>t</sub>(t)**. E.g., **value<sub>t</sub>(01:01:01) = 3661**.

The **value<sub>t</sub>** function is one-to-one, but its range is restricted to [0..86400]. So, it has an inverse function **value<sub>t</sub><sup>-1</sup>(x)** that returns: the corresponding time value for x, if x is in [0..86400]; and **value<sub>t</sub><sup>-1</sup>(y)**, where  $y = x - \text{floor}(x/86400) * 86400$ , if x is not in [0..86400].

Note: That is, **value<sub>t</sub><sup>-1</sup>(x)** is always actually applied to x modulo 86400. For example, **value<sub>t</sub><sup>-1</sup>(3600)** will return the time of day that is “T01:00:00”, **value<sub>t</sub><sup>-1</sup>(90000)** will also return “T01:00:00”, and **value<sub>t</sub><sup>-1</sup>(-3600)** will return the time of day that is “T23:00:00”, treating -3600 seconds as one hour *before* midnight.

### 10.3.2.3.5 date

FEEL does not have date literals, although it uses boldface date literals to represent values in the semantic domain. Dates can be expressed using a string literal and the *date()* built-in function (see 10.3.4.1). A date in the semantic domain is a sequence of numbers for the year, month, day of month. The year must be in the range [-999,999,999..999,999,999].

Where necessary, including the **value<sub>dt</sub>** function (see 10.3.2.x.6), a date value is considered to be equivalent to a date time value in which the time of day is UTC midnight (00:00:00).

### 10.3.2.3.6 date-time

FEEL does not have date-time literals, although it uses boldface date-time literals to represent values in the semantic domain. Date-times can be expressed using a string literal and the *date and time()* built-in function (see 10.3.4.1).

A date and time in the semantic domain is a sequence of numbers for the year, month, day, hour, minute, second, and optional time offset from Universal Coordinated Time (UTC). The year must be in the range [-999,999,999..999,999,999]. If there is an associated time offset, including 00:00, the date-time value has a UTC form and is comparable to all other date-time values that have UTC forms. If there is no associated time offset, the time is taken to be a local time of day at some location, according to the time zone rules for that location. When the time zone is specified, e.g., using the IANA tz form (see 10.3.4.1), the date-time value may be converted to a UTC form using the time zone rules for that location, if applicable.

Note: projecting timezone rules into the future may only be safe for near-term date-time values.

A date and time **d** that has a UTC form can be represented as a number of seconds since a reference date and time (called the epoch). We write **value<sub>dt</sub>(d)** to represent the number of seconds between **d** and the epoch. The **value<sub>dt</sub>** function is one-to-one and so it has an inverse function **value<sub>dt</sub><sup>-1</sup>**. E.g., **value<sub>dt</sub><sup>-1</sup>(value<sub>dt</sub>(d)) = d**. **value<sub>dt</sub><sup>-1</sup>** returns **null** rather than a date with a year outside the legal range.

### 10.3.2.3.7 days and time duration

FEEL does not have duration literals although we use boldface duration literals to represent values in the semantic domain.. Durations can be expressed using a string literal and the *duration()* built-in function. The literal format of the characters

within the quotes of the string literal is defined by the lexical space of the [XPath Data Model](#) dayTimeDuration datatype. A days and time duration in the semantic domain is a sequence of numbers for the days, hours, minutes, and seconds of duration, normalized such that the sum of these numbers is minimized. For example, FEEL(duration("P0DT25H")) = **P1DT1H**.

The value of a days and time duration can be expressed as a number of seconds. E.g.,  $\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}(\text{P1DT1H}) = 90000$ . The  $\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}$  function is one-to-one and so it has an inverse function  $\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}^{-1}$ . E.g.,  $\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}^{-1}(90000) = \text{P1DT1H}$ .

### 10.3.2.3.8 years and months duration

FEEL does not have duration literals, although we use boldface duration literals to represent values in the semantic domain. Durations can be expressed using a string literal and the *duration()* built-in function. The literal format of the characters within the quotes of the string literal is defined by the lexical space of the [XPath Data Model](#) yearMonthDuration datatype. A years and months duration in the semantic domain is a pair of numbers for the years and months of duration, normalized such that the sum of these numbers is minimized. For example, FEEL(duration("P0Y13M")) = **P1Y1M**.

The value of a years and months duration can be expressed as a number of months. E.g.,  $\text{value}_{\text{ymd}}(\text{P1Y1M}) = 13$ . The  $\text{value}_{\text{ymd}}$  function is one-to-one and so it has an inverse function  $\text{value}_{\text{ymd}}^{-1}$ . E.g.,  $\text{value}_{\text{ymd}}^{-1}(13) = \text{P1Y1M}$ .

### 10.3.2.4 Ternary logic

FEEL, like SQL and PMML, uses of ternary logic for truth values. This makes **and** and **or** complete functions from  $D \times D \rightarrow D$ . Ternary logic is used in [Predictive Modeling Markup Language](#) to model missing data values.

### 10.3.2.5 Lists and filters

Lists are immutable and may be nested. The *first* element of a list  $L$  can be accessed using  $L[1]$  and the *last* element can be accessed using  $L[-1]$ . The  $n^{\text{th}}$  element from the beginning can be accessed using  $L[n]$ , and the  $n^{\text{th}}$  element from the end can be accessed using  $L[-n]$ .

If  $\text{FEEL}(L) = \mathbf{L}$  is a list in the FEEL semantic domain, the first element is  $\text{FEEL}(L[1]) = \mathbf{L[1]}$ . If  $\mathbf{L}$  does not contain  $\mathbf{n}$  items, then **L[n] is null**.

$\mathbf{L}$  can be filtered with a Boolean expression in square brackets. The expression in square brackets can reference a list element using the name *item*, unless the list element is a context that contains the key "**item**". If the list element is a context, then its context entries may be referenced within the filter expression without the '*item*.' prefix. For example:

```
[1, 2, 3, 4][item > 2] = [3, 4]
[{x:1, y:2}, {x:2, y:3}][x=1] = {x:1, y:2}
```

The filter expression is evaluated for each item in list, and a list containing only items where the filter expression is **true** is returned.

Singleton lists are equal to their single item. Therefore, any function or operator that expects a list as input but instead receives a non-list semantic domain element  $\mathbf{e}$  behaves as if it had received  $[\mathbf{e}]$  as input.

For convenience, a selection using the *..* operator with a list of contexts on its left hand side returns a list of selections, i.e.  $\text{FEEL}(e.f, \mathbf{c}) = [\text{FEEL}(f, \mathbf{c}'), \text{FEEL}(f, \mathbf{c}''), \dots]$  where  $\text{FEEL}(e) = [\mathbf{e}', \mathbf{e}'', \dots]$  and  $\mathbf{c}'$  is  $\mathbf{c}$  augmented with the context entries of  $\mathbf{e}'$ ,  $\mathbf{c}''$  is  $\mathbf{c}$  augmented with the context entries of  $\mathbf{e}''$ , etc. For example,

```
[{x:1, y:2}, {x:2, y:3}].y = [2,3]
```

### 10.3.2.6 Context

A FEEL context is a partially ordered collection of (key, expression) pairs called context entries. In the syntax, keys can be either names or strings. Keys are mapped to strings in the semantic domain. These strings are distinct within a context. A context in the domain is denoted using bold FEEL syntax with string keys, e.g.  $\{ \text{"key}_1" : \text{expr}_1, \text{"key}_2" : \text{expr}_2, \dots \}$ .

The syntax for selecting the value of the entry named  $\text{key}_1$  from context-valued expression  $m$  is  $m.\text{key}_1$ .

If  $key_1$  is not a legal name or for whatever reason one wishes to treat the key as a string, the following syntax is allowed:  $get\ value(m, "key_1")$ . Selecting a value by key from context  $\mathbf{m}$  in the semantic domain is denoted as  $\mathbf{m}.key_1$  or  $get\ value(\mathbf{m}, "key_1")$

To retrieve a list of key,value pairs from a context  $m$ , the following built-in function may be used:  $get\ entries(m)$ .

For example, the following is true:

```
get entries({key1: "value1"})[key="key1"].value = "value1"
```

An expression in a context entry may not reference the key of the same context entry, but may reference keys (as QNs) from other context entries in the same context. These references SHALL be acyclic and form a partial order. The expressions in a context SHALL be evaluated consistent with this partial order.

### 10.3.2.7 Ranges

FEEL supports a compact syntax for a range of values, useful in decision table test cells and elsewhere. A range maps to the semantic domain as a single comparable value (number, date/time/duration, or string) or a pair of comparable endpoint values and an endpoint inclusivity code that indicates whether one or both endpoints are included in the range.

The range syntax supports literal and symbolic endpoints, but not arbitrary expressions. Because date/time/duration values have no literal syntax, symbolic endpoints must be used for ranges of these types. *E.g.*, the following context defines a range of duration named *soon* from one to two minutes, inclusive.

```
{  
    one min: duration("PT1M"),  
    two min: duration("PT2M"),  
    soon: [one min..two min]  
}
```

### 10.3.2.8 Decision Table

The normative notation for decision tables is specified in clause 8.

Each **input expression** SHALL be a *textual expression* (grammar rule 2) referencing one or more input variables (qualified names).

Each list of **input values** SHALL be an instance of *unary tests* (grammar rule 17). The value that is tested is the value of the input expression of the containing clause.

Each list of **output values** SHALL be an instance of *unary tests* (grammar rule 17). The value that is tested is the value of a selected output entry of the containing clause.

Each **input entry** SHALL be a *unary test* (grammar rule 15), where the value that is tested is the value of the input expression of the containing clause. If a rule has multiple disjunctive conditions applying to the same input expression, the expression in the corresponding decision table cell SHALL be an instance of *unary tests* (grammar rule 17).

A textual representation using invocation of the decision table built-in function is provided here in order to tie the syntax to the semantics in the same way as is done for the rest of FEEL. Unary tests (grammar rule 17) cannot be mapped to the semantic domain in isolation, and are left as their syntactic forms, indicated by the enclosing single-quotes. For example, the first decision table in Table 26 can be represented textually as

*decision table*(

```
    outputs: "Applicant Risk Rating",  
    input expression list: [Applicant Age, Medical History],  
    rule list: [  
        '>60',           "'good'",          "'Medium'"],
```

```

['>60',           '"bad"',  '"High"],  

['[25..60]',      '-',       '"Medium"],  

['<25',           '"good"',  '"Low"],  

['<25',           '"bad"',   '"Medium"]],  

hit policy: "Unique")

```

The decision table built-in in clause 10.3.4.6 will compose the unary tests syntax into expressions that can be mapped to the FEEL semantic domain.

### 10.3.2.9 Scope and context stack

A FEEL expression  $e$  is always evaluated in a well-defined set of name bindings that are used to resolve QNs in  $e$ . This set of name bindings is called the scope of  $e$ . Scope is modeled as a list of contexts. A scope  $s$  contains the contexts with entries that are in scope for  $e$ . The last context in  $s$  is the *built-in* context. Next to last in  $s$  is the *global* context. The first context in  $s$  is the context immediately containing  $e$  (if any). Next are enclosing contexts of  $e$  (if any).

The QN of  $e$  is the QN of the first context in  $s$  appended with .N, where N is the name of entry in the first context of  $s$  containing  $e$ . QNs in  $e$  are resolved by looking through the contexts in  $s$  from first to last.

#### 10.3.2.9.1 Local context

If  $e$  denotes the value of a context entry of context  $m$ , then  $m$  is the local context for  $e$ , and  $m$  is the first element of  $s$ . Otherwise,  $e$  has no local context and the first element of  $s$  is the global context, or in some cases explained later, the first element of  $s$  is a special context.

All of the entries of  $m$  are in-scope for  $e$ , but the *depends on* graph SHALL be acyclic. This provides a simple solution to the problem of the confusing definition above: if  $m$  is the result of evaluating the context expression  $m$  that contains  $e$ , how can we know it in order to evaluate  $e$ ? Simply evaluate the context entries in *depends on* order.

#### 10.3.2.9.2 Global context

The global context is a context provided for convenience and 'pre-compilation'. Any number of expressions can be named and represented in a FEEL context  $m$ . The syntactic description  $m$  of this context can be evaluated once, that is, mapped to the FEEL domain as  $m$ , and then re-used to evaluate many expressions.

#### 10.3.2.9.3 Built-in context

The built-in context contains all the built-in functions.

#### 10.3.2.9.4 Special context

Some FEEL expressions are interpreted in a *special* context that is pushed on the front of  $s$ . For example, a filter expression is repeatedly executed with special first context containing the name 'item' bound to successive list elements. A function is executed with a special first context containing argument name->value mappings.

Qualified names (QNs) in FEEL expressions are interpreted relative to  $s$ . The meaning of a FEEL expression  $e$  in scope  $s$  is denoted as  $\text{FEEL}(e, s)$ . We can also say that  $e$  evaluates to  $e$  in scope  $s$ , or  $e = \text{FEEL}(e, s)$ . Note that  $e$  and  $s$  are elements of the FEEL domain.  $s$  is a list of contexts.

### 10.3.2.10 Mapping between FEEL and other domains

A FEEL expression  $e$  denotes a value  $e$  in the semantic domain. Some kinds of values can be passed between FEEL and external Java methods, between FEEL and external PMML models, and between FEEL and XML, as summarized in the Table 32:

**Table 32: Mapping between FEEL and other domains**

<i>FEEL value</i>	<i>Java</i>	<i>XML</i>	<i>PMML</i>
number	java.math.BigDecimal	decimal	decimal, PROB-NUMBER, PERCENTAGE-NUMBER
		integer	integer , INT-NUMBER
		double	double, REAL-NUMBER
string	java.lang.String	string	string, FIELD-NAME
date and time, time	javax.xml.datatype. XMLGregorianCalendar	date, dateTime, time, dateTimestamp	date, dateTime, time conversion required for dateDaysSince, <i>et. al.</i>
duration	javax.xml.datatype. Duration	yearMonthDuration, dayTimeDuration	X
boolean	java.lang.Boolean	boolean	boolean
range	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
function	X	X	X
list	java.util.List	contain multiple child elements	array (homogeneous)
context	java.util.Map	contain attributes and child elements	X

Sometimes we do not want to evaluate a FEEL expression  $e$ , we just want to know the type of  $e$ . Note that if  $e$  has QNs, then a context may be needed for type inference. We write  $\text{type}(e)$  as the type of the domain element  $\text{FEEL}(e, \mathbf{c})$ .

### 10.3.2.11 Function Semantics

FEEL functions can be

- built-in, e.g.,  
*decision table* (see clause 10.3.4.6), or
- user-defined, e.g.,  
*function(age) age < 21*, or
- externally defined, e.g.,  
*function(angle) external {*  
    *java: {*  
        *class: "java.lang.Math",*  
        *method signature: "cos(double)"*  
    *}*

FEEL built-ins are specified in 10.3.4.

### 10.3.2.11.1 User-defined functions

User-defined functions have the form

*function*( $X_1, \dots X_n$ ) *e*

The terms  $X_1, \dots X_n$  are parameter names. The function body is *e*. The meaning of FEEL(*function*( $X_1, \dots X_n$ ) *e*, *s*) is an element in the FEEL semantic domain that we denote as **function(argument list: [** $X_1, \dots X_n$ **], body: e, scope: s)** (shortened to **f** below). FEEL functions are lexical closures, *i.e.*, the body is an expression that references the formal parameters and any other names in scope **s**.

The invocation of a FEEL user-defined function **f** is denoted as **f**( $Y_1, \dots Y_n$ ). The meaning FEEL(**f**( $Y_1, \dots Y_n$ ), **S**), where **f** has already been interpreted, is computed as follows:

1. the parameter names  $X_1, \dots X_n$  and corresponding values  $\mathbf{Y}_1, \dots \mathbf{Y}_n$  are paired in a context **c** = { $X_1 : \mathbf{Y}_1, \dots X_n : \mathbf{Y}_n$ } .  $\mathbf{Y}_i = \text{FEEL}(Y_i, \mathbf{S})$ .
2. *e* is interpreted in *s'*, where *s'* = **insert before(s, 1, c)** (see 10.3.4.4)

### 10.3.2.11.2 Externally-defined functions

FEEL externally-defined functions have the following form

*function*( $X_1, \dots X_n$ ) *external mapping-information*

Mapping-information is a context that SHALL have one of the following forms:

```
{  
  java: {class: class-name, method signature: method-signature}  
}
```

or

```
{  
  pmml: {document: IRI, model: model-name}  
}
```

The meaning of an externally defined function is an element in the semantic domain that we denote as **function(argument list: [** $X_1, \dots X_n$ **], external: mapping-information)**.

The *java* form of the mapping information indicates that the external function is to be accessed as a method on a Java class. The *class-name* SHALL be the string name of a Java class on the classpath. Classpath configuration is implementation-defined. The *method-signature* SHALL be a string consisting of the name of a public static method in the named class, followed by an argument list containing only Java argument type names. The argument type information SHOULD be used to resolve overloaded methods and MAY be used to detect out-of-domain errors before runtime.

The *pmml* form of the mapping information indicates that the external function is to be accessed as a PMML model. The *IRI* SHALL be the resource identifier for a PMML document. The *model-name* is optional. If the *model-name* is specified, it SHALL be the name of a model in the document to which the *IRI* refers. If no *model-name* is specified, the external function SHALL be the first model in the document.

When an externally-defined function is invoked, actual argument values and result value are converted when possible using the type mapping table for Java or PMML [ref to this table in Types and Inference]. When a conversion is not possible, **null** is substituted. If a result cannot be obtained, *e.g.* an exception is thrown, the result of the invocation is **null**.

Passing parameter values to the external method or model requires knowing the expected parameter types. For Java, this information is obtained using reflection. For PMML, this information is obtained from the mining schema and data dictionary elements associated with independent variables of the selected model.

Note that **DMN** does not completely define the semantics of a Decision Model that uses externally-defined functions. Externally-defined functions SHOULD have no side-effects and be deterministic.

### 10.3.2.11.3 Function name

To name a function, define it as a context entry. *E.g.*

```
{
  isPositive : function(x) x > 0,
  isNotNegative : function(x) isPositive(x+1),
  result: isNotNegative(0)
}
```

### 10.3.2.11.4 Positional and named parameters

An invocation of any FEEL function (built-in, user-defined, or externally-defined) can use positional parameters or named parameters. If positional, all parameters SHALL be supplied. If named, unsupplied parameters are bound to **null**.

## 10.3.2.12 Semantic mappings

The meaning of each substantive grammar rule is given below by mapping the syntax to a value in the semantic domain. The value may depend on certain input values, themselves having been mapped to the semantic domain. The input values may have to obey additional constraints. The input domain(s) may be a subset of the semantic domain. Inputs outside of their domain result in a **null** value.

**Table 33:** Semantics of FEEL functions

Grammar Rule	FEEL Syntax	Mapped to Domain
57	<i>function(n<sub>1</sub>,...n<sub>N</sub>) e</i>	<b>function(argument list: [n<sub>1</sub>, ... n<sub>N</sub>], body: e, scope: s)</b>
57	<i>function(n<sub>1</sub>,...n<sub>N</sub>) external e</i>	<b>function(argument list: [n<sub>1</sub>, ... n<sub>N</sub>], external: e)</b>

See 10.3.2.7.

**Table 34:** Semantics of other FEEL expressions

Grammar Rule	FEEL Syntax	Mapped to Domain
46	<i>for n<sub>1</sub> in e<sub>1</sub>, n<sub>2</sub> in e<sub>2</sub>, ... return e</i>	[ <b>FEEL(e, s')</b> , <b>FEEL(e, s'')</b> , ... ]
47	<i>if e<sub>1</sub> then e<sub>2</sub> else e<sub>3</sub></i>	<b>if FEEL(e<sub>1</sub>) is true then FEEL(e<sub>2</sub>) else FEEL(e<sub>3</sub>)</b>
48	<i>some n<sub>1</sub> in e<sub>1</sub>, n<sub>2</sub> in e<sub>2</sub>, ... satisfies e</i>	<b>FEEL(e, s')</b> or <b>FEEL(e, s'')</b> or ...
48	<i>every n<sub>1</sub> in e<sub>1</sub>, n<sub>2</sub> in e<sub>2</sub>, ... satisfies e</i>	<b>FEEL(e, s')</b> and <b>FEEL(e, s'')</b> and ...
49	<i>e<sub>1</sub> or e<sub>2</sub> or ...</i>	<b>FEEL(e<sub>1</sub>) or FEEL(e<sub>2</sub>) or ...</b>
50	<i>e<sub>1</sub> and e<sub>2</sub> and ...</i>	<b>FEEL(e<sub>1</sub>) and FEEL(e<sub>2</sub>) and ...</b>

51.a	$e = \text{null}$	<b>FEEL(<math>e</math>) is null</b>
51.a	$\text{null} = e$	<b>FEEL(<math>e</math>) is null</b>
51.a	$e \neq \text{null}$	<b>FEEL(<math>e</math>) is not null</b>
51.a	$\text{null} \neq e$	<b>FEEL(<math>e</math>) is not null</b>

Notice that we use bold syntax to denote contexts, lists, conjunctions, disjunctions, conditional expressions, true, false, and null in the FEEL domain.

The meaning of the conjunction **a and b** and the disjunction **a or b** is defined by ternary logic. Because these are total functions, the input can be **true**, **false**, or **otherwise** (meaning any element of **D** other than **true** or **false**).

**Table 35: Semantics of conjunction and disjunction**

a	b	a and b	a or b
true	true	true	true
true	false	false	true
true	otherwise	null	true
false	true	false	true
false	false	false	false
false	otherwise	false	null
otherwise	true	null	true
otherwise	false	false	null
otherwise	otherwise	null	null

Negation is accomplished using the built-in function **not**. The ternary logic is as shown in Table 36.

**Table 36: Semantics of negation**

a	not(a)
true	false
false	true
otherwise	null

A conditional **if a then b else c** is equal to **b** if **a** is **true**, and equal to **c** otherwise.

$s'$  is the scope  $s$  with a special first context containing keys  $n_1, n_2, \dots$  bound to the first element of the Cartesian product of  $\text{FEEL}(e_1) \times \text{FEEL}(e_2) \times \dots$ ,  $s''$  is  $s$  with a special first context containing keys bound to the second element of the Cartesian product, etc.

Equality and inequality map to several kind- and datatype-specific tests, as shown in Table 37, Table 38 and Table 39. By definition,  $\text{FEEL}(e_1 \neq e_2)$  is  $\text{FEEL}(\text{not}(e_1 = e_2))$ . The other comparison operators are defined only for the datatypes listed in Table 39. Note that Table 39 defines only ' $<$ '; ' $>$ ' is similar to ' $<$ ' and is omitted for brevity;  $e_1 <= e_2$  is defined as  $e_1 < e_2$  or  $e_1 = e_2$ .

**Table 37: General semantics of equality and inequality**

Grammar Rule	FEEL Syntax	Input Domain	Result
51.a	$e_1 = e_2$	<b>e<sub>1</sub> and e<sub>2</sub> must both be of the same kind/datatype – both numbers, both strings, etc.</b>	<i>See below</i>
51.a	$e_1 < e_2$	<b>e<sub>1</sub> and e<sub>2</sub> must both be of the same kind/datatype – both numbers, both strings, etc.</b>	<i>See below</i>

**Table 38: Specific semantics of equality**

kind/datatype	$e_1 = e_2$
list	lists must be same length N and $e_1[i] = e_2[i]$ for $1 \leq i \leq N$ .
context	contexts must have same set of keys K and $e_1.k = e_2.k$ for every k in K
range	the ranges must specify the same endpoints and the same endpoint inclusivity code.
function	internal functions must have the same parameters, body, and scope. Externally defined functions must have the same parameters and external mapping information.
number	<b>value(e<sub>1</sub>) = value(e<sub>2</sub>)</b> . Value is defined in 10.3.2.3.1. Precision is not considered.
string	<b>e<sub>1</sub></b> is the same sequence of characters as <b>e<sub>2</sub></b>
date	all 3 components (10.3.2.3.5) must be equal
date and time	all 7 components (10.3.2.3.5), treating unspecified optional components as null, must be equal
time	all 4 components (10.3.2.3.4), treating unspecified optional components as null, must be equal

days and time duration	<b>value(e<sub>1</sub>) = value(e<sub>2</sub>)</b> . Value is defined in 10.3.2.3.7.
years and months duration	<b>value(e<sub>1</sub>) = value(e<sub>2</sub>)</b> . Value is defined in 10.3.2.3.8.
boolean	e <sub>1</sub> and e <sub>2</sub> must both be <b>true</b> or both be <b>false</b>

**Table 39: Specific semantics of inequality**

<b>datatype</b>	$e_1 < e_2$
number	<b>value(e<sub>1</sub>) &lt; value(e<sub>2</sub>)</b> . <b>value</b> is defined in 10.3.2.3.1. Precision is not considered.
string	sequence of characters e <sub>1</sub> is lexicographically less than the sequence of characters e <sub>2</sub> . <i>I.e.</i> , the sequences are padded to the same length if needed with \u0000 characters, stripped of common prefix characters, and then the first character in each sequence is compared.
date	e <sub>1</sub> < e <sub>2</sub> if the year value of e <sub>1</sub> < the year value of e <sub>2</sub> e <sub>1</sub> < e <sub>2</sub> if the year values are equal and the month value of e <sub>1</sub> < the month value of e <sub>2</sub> e <sub>1</sub> < e <sub>2</sub> if the year and month values are equal and the day value of e <sub>1</sub> < the day value of e <sub>2</sub>
date and time	<b>value<sub>dt</sub>(e<sub>1</sub>) &lt; value<sub>dt</sub>(e<sub>2</sub>)</b> . <b>value<sub>dt</sub></b> is defined in 10.3.2.3.5. If one input has a null timezone offset, that input uses the timezone offset of the other input.
time	<b>value<sub>t</sub>(e<sub>1</sub>) &lt; value<sub>t</sub>(e<sub>2</sub>)</b> . <b>value<sub>t</sub></b> is defined in 10.3.2.3.4. If one input has a null timezone offset, that input uses the timezone offset of the other input.
days and time duration	<b>value<sub>dtd</sub>(e<sub>1</sub>) &lt; value<sub>dtd</sub>(e<sub>2</sub>)</b> . <b>value<sub>dtd</sub></b> is defined in 10.3.2.3.7.
years and months duration	<b>value<sub>ymd</sub>(e<sub>1</sub>) &lt; value<sub>ymd</sub>(e<sub>2</sub>)</b> . <b>value<sub>ymd</sub></b> is defined in 10.3.2.3.8.

FEEL supports additional syntactic sugar for comparison. Note that Grammar Rules (clause 10.3.1.2) are used in decision table condition cells. In Grammar Rule **51c**, the qualified name must evaluate to a comparable constant value at modeling time, *i.e.* the endpoint must be a literal or a named constant. These decision table syntaxes are defined in Table 40.

**Table 40: Semantics of decision table syntax**

Grammar Rule	FEEL Syntax	Equivalent FEEL Syntax	applicability
51.b	$e_1$ between $e_2$ and $e_3$	$e_1 \geq e_2$ and $e_1 \leq e_3$	
51.c	$e_1$ in [ $e_2, e_3, \dots$ ]	$e_1 = e_2$ or $e_1 = e_3$ or...	$e_2$ and $e_3$ are endpoints

51.c	$e_1 \text{ in } [e_2, e_3, \dots]$	$e_1 \text{ in } e_2 \text{ or } e_1 \text{ in } e_3 \text{ or } \dots$	$e_2$ and $e_3$ are ranges
51.c	$e_1 \text{ in } <= e_2$	$e_1 <= e_2$	
51.c	$e_1 \text{ in } < e_2$	$e_1 < e_2$	
51.c	$e_1 \text{ in } >= e_2$	$e_1 >= e_2$	
51.c	$e_1 \text{ in } < e_2$	$e_1 < e_2$	
51.c	$e_1 \text{ in } (e_2..e_3)$	$e_1 > e_2 \text{ and } e_1 < e_3$	
51.c	$e_1 \text{ in } (e_2..e_3]$	$e_1 > e_2 \text{ and } e_1 <= e_3$	
51.c	$e_1 \text{ in } [e_2..e_3)$	$e_1 >= e_2 \text{ and } e_1 < e_3$	
51.c	$e_1 \text{ in } [e_2..e_3]$	$e_1 >= e_2 \text{ and } e_1 <= e_3$	

Addition and subtraction are defined in Table 41 and Table 42. Note that if input values are not of the listed types, the result is **null**.

**Table 41: General semantics of addition and subtraction**

Grammar Rule	FEEL	Input Domain and Result
21	$e_1 + e_2$	<i>See below</i>
22	$e_1 - e_2$	<i>See below</i>

**Table 42: Specific semantics of addition and subtraction**

type( $e_1$ )	type( $e_2$ )	$e_1 + e_2, e_1 - e_2$	result type
number	number	<p>Let <math>e_1=(p_1,s_1)</math> and <math>e_2=(p_2,s_2)</math> as defined in 10.3.2.3.1. If <math>\text{value}(p_1,s_1) +/- \text{value}(p_2,s_2)</math> requires a scale outside the range of valid scales, the result is <b>null</b>. Else the result is <math>(p,s)</math> such that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\text{value}(p,s) = \text{value}(p_1,s_1) +/- \text{value}(p_2,s_2) + \epsilon</math></li> <li>• <math>s \leq \max(s_1, s_2)</math></li> <li>• <math>s</math> is maximized subject to the limitation that <math>p</math> has 34 digits or less</li> <li>• <math>\epsilon</math> is a possible rounding error.</li> </ul>	number
date and time	date and time	Addition is undefined. Subtraction is defined as $\text{value}_{\text{dt}}^{-1}(\text{value}_{\text{dt}}(e_1) - \text{value}_{\text{dt}}(e_2))$ , where $\text{value}_{\text{dt}}$ is defined in 10.3.2.3.5 and $\text{value}_{\text{dt}}^{-1}$ is defined in 10.3.2.3.7.	days and time duration

time	time	Addition is undefined. Subtraction is defined as $\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}^{-1}(\text{value}_t(e_1) - \text{value}_t(e_2))$ where $\text{value}_t$ is defined in 10.3.2.3.4 and $\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}^{-1}$ is defined in 10.3.2.3.7.	days and time duration
years and months duration	years and months duration	$\text{value}_{\text{ynd}}^{-1}(\text{value}_{\text{ynd}}(e_1) +/\!-\! \text{value}_{\text{ynd}}(e_2))$ where $\text{value}_{\text{ynd}}$ and $\text{value}_{\text{ynd}}^{-1}$ is defined in 10.3.2.3.8.	years and months duration
days and time duration	days and time duration	$\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}^{-1}(\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}(e_1) +/\!-\! \text{value}_{\text{dtd}}(e_2))$ where $\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}$ and $\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}^{-1}$ is defined in 10.3.2.3.7	days and time duration
date and time	years and months duration	date and time (date( $e_1$ .year +/ $- e_2$ .years + floor(( $e_1$ .month +/ $- e_2$ .months)/12), $e_1$ .month +/ $- e_2$ .months – floor(( $e_1$ .month +/ $- e_2$ .months)/12) * 12, $e_1$ .day), time( $e_1$ )), where the named properties are as defined in Table 50 below, and the date, date and time, time and floor functions are as defined in 10.3.4, $\text{value}_{\text{dt}}$ and $\text{value}_{\text{dt}}^{-1}$ is defined in 10.3.2.3.5 and $\text{value}_{\text{ynd}}$ is defined in 10.3.2.3.8.	date and time
years and months duration	date and time	Subtraction is undefined. Addition is commutative and is defined by the previous rule.	date and time
date and time	days and time duration	$\text{value}_{\text{dt}}^{-1}(\text{value}_{\text{dt}}(e_1) +/\!-\! \text{value}_{\text{dtd}}(e_2))$ where $\text{value}_{\text{dt}}$ and $\text{value}_{\text{dt}}^{-1}$ is defined in 10.3.2.3.5 and $\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}$ is defined in 10.3.2.3.7.	date and time
days and time duration	date and time	Subtraction is undefined. Addition is commutative and is defined by the previous rule.	date and time
time	days and time duration	$\text{value}_t^{-1}(\text{value}_t(e_1) +/\!-\! \text{value}_{\text{dtd}}(e_2))$ where $\text{value}_t$ and $\text{value}_t^{-1}$ is defined in 10.3.2.3.4 and $\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}$ is defined in 10.3.2.3.7.	time
days and time duration	time	Subtraction is undefined. Addition is commutative and is defined by the previous rule.	time
string	string	Subtraction is undefined. Addition concatenates the strings. The result is a string containing the sequence of characters in $e_1$ followed by the sequence of characters in $e_2$ .	string

Multiplication and division are defined in Table 43 and Table 44. Note that if input values are not of the listed types, the result is **null**.

**Table 43: General semantics of multiplication and division**

Grammar Rule	FEEL	Input Domain and Result
23	$e_1 * e_2$	<i>See below</i>
24	$e_1 / e_2$	<i>See below</i>

**Table 44: Specific semantics of multiplication and division**

type( $e_1$ )	type( $e_2$ )	$e_1 * e_2$	$e_1 / e_2$	result type
number $e_1=(p_1,s_1)$	number $e_2=(p_2,s_2)$	If $\text{value}(p_1,s_1) * \text{value}(p_2,s_2)$ requires a scale outside the range of valid scales, the result is <b>null</b> . Else the result is $(p,s)$ such that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\text{value}(p,s) = \text{value}(p_1,s_1) * \text{value}(p_2,s_2) + \epsilon</math></li> <li>• <math>s \leq s_1+s_2</math></li> <li>• <math>s</math> is maximized subject to the limitation that <math>p</math> has 34 digits or less</li> <li>• <math>\epsilon</math> is a possible rounding error</li> </ul>	If $\text{value}(p_2,s_2)=0$ or $\text{value}(p_1,s_1) / \text{value}(p_2,s_2)$ requires a scale outside the range of valid scales, the result is <b>null</b> . Else the result is $(p,s)$ such that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\text{value}(p,s) = \text{value}(p_1,s_1) / \text{value}(p_2,s_2) + \epsilon</math></li> <li>• <math>s \leq s_1-s_2</math></li> <li>• <math>s</math> is maximized subject to the limitation that <math>p</math> has 34 digits or less</li> <li>• <math>\epsilon</math> is a possible rounding error</li> </ul>	number
years and months duration	number	$\text{value}_{\text{ymd}}^{-1}(\text{value}_{\text{ymd}}(e_1) * \text{value}(e_2))$ where $\text{value}_{\text{ymd}}$ and $\text{value}_{\text{ymd}}^{-1}$ are defined in 10.3.2.3.8.	If $\text{value}(e_2)=0$ , the result is <b>null</b> . Else the result is $\text{value}_{\text{ymd}}^{-1}(\text{value}_{\text{ymd}}(e_1) / \text{value}(e_2))$ where $\text{value}_{\text{ymd}}$ and $\text{value}_{\text{ymd}}^{-1}$ are defined in 10.3.2.3.8.	years and months duration
number	years and months duration	<i>see above, reversing <math>e_1</math> and <math>e_2</math></i>		
days and time duration	number	$\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}^{-1}(\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}(e_1) * \text{value}(e_2))$ where $\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}$ and $\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}^{-1}$ are defined in 10.3.2.3.7.	If $\text{value}(e_2)=0$ , the result is <b>null</b> . Else the result is $\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}^{-1}(\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}(e_1) / \text{value}(e_2))$ where $\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}$ and $\text{value}_{\text{dtd}}^{-1}$ are defined in 10.3.2.3.7.	days and time duration
number	days and time duration	<i>see above, reversing <math>e_1</math> and <math>e_2</math></i>		

Exponentiation is defined in Table 45.

**Table 45: Semantics of exponentiation**

Grammar Rule	FEEL Syntax	Input Domain	Result
25	$e_1 ** e_2$	<b>type(<math>e_1</math>)</b> is number. <b>value(<math>e_2</math>)</b> is an integer in the range [-999,999,999..999,999,999].	If $\text{value}(e_1)^{\text{value}(e_2)}$ requires a scale that is out of range, the result is <b>null</b> . Else the result is <b>(p,s)</b> such that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\text{value}(p,s) = \text{value}(e_1)^{\text{value}(e_2)} + \epsilon</math></li> <li>• <math>p</math> is limited to 34 digits</li> <li>• <math>\epsilon</math> is rounding error</li> </ul>

Type-checking is defined in Table 46. Note that *type* is not mapped to the domain, and *null* is not the name of a type, and **null** is not an instance of any type.

**Table 46: Semantics of type-checking**

Grammar Rule	FEEL Syntax	Mapped to Domain
53	<i>e instance of type</i>	<b>true</b> iff <b>type(<math>e</math>)</b> is <i>type</i>

Negative numbers are defined in Table 47.

**Table 47: Semantics of negative numbers**

Grammar Rule	FEEL Syntax	Equivalent FEEL Syntax
26	$-e$	$0-e$

Invocation is defined in Table 48. An invocation can use positional arguments or named arguments. If positional, all arguments must be supplied. If named, unsupplied arguments are bound to **null**. Note that **e** can be a user-defined function, a user-defined external function, or a built-in function.

**Table 48: Semantics of invocation**

Grammar Rule	FEEL	Mapped to Domain	Applicability
40, 41, 44	$e(e_1, \dots)$	<b>e(<math>e_1, \dots</math>)</b>	<b>e</b> is a function with matching arity
40, 41, 42, 43	$e(n_1:e_1, \dots)$	<b>e(<math>n_1:e_1, \dots</math>)</b>	<b>e</b> is a function with matching parameter names

Properties are defined in Table 49 and Table 50. If **type( $e$ )** is date and time, time, or duration, and **name** is a property name, then the meaning is given by Table 50. For example,  $\text{FEEL}(\text{date and time}("03-07-2012Z").\text{year}) = 2012$ .

**Table 49: General semantics of properties**

Grammar Rule	FEEL	Mapped to Domain	Applicability
20	$e.name$	$e.^name$	$\text{type}(e)$ is a context
20	$e.name$	<i>see below</i>	$\text{type}(e)$ is a date/time/duration

**Table 50: Specific semantics of date, time and duration properties**

$\text{type}(e)$	$e . name$	$\text{name} =$
date	result is the named component of the date object $e$ . Valid names are shown to the right.	year, month, day
date and time	result is the named component of the date and time object $e$ . Valid names are shown to the right. time offset and timezone may be null	year, month, day, hour, minute, second, time offset, timezone
time	result is the named component of the time object $e$ . Valid names are shown to the right. time offset and timezone may be null	hour, minute, second, time offset, timezone
years and months duration	result is the <b>named</b> component of the years and months duration object $e$ . Valid names are shown to the right.	years, months
days and time duration	result is the <b>named</b> component of the days and time duration object $e$ . Valid names are shown to the right.	days, hours, minutes, seconds

Lists are defined in Table 51.

**Table 51: Semantics of lists**

Grammar Rule	FEEL Syntax	Mapped to Domain (scope s)	Applicability
56	$e_1[e_2]$	$e_1[e_2]$	$e_1$ is a list and $e_2$ is an integer (0 scale number)
56	$e_1[e_2]$	$e_1$	$e_1$ is not a list and not <b>null</b> and $\text{value}(e_2) = 1$

56	$e_1[e_2]$	list of items $\mathbf{e}$ such that $\mathbf{i}$ is in $\mathbf{e}$ iff $\mathbf{i}$ is in $\mathbf{e}_1$ and $\text{FEEL}(e_2, \mathbf{s}')$ is <b>true</b> , where $\mathbf{s}'$ is the scope $\mathbf{s}$ with a special first context containing the context entry ("item", $\mathbf{i}$ ) and if $\mathbf{i}$ is a context, the special context also contains all the context entries of $\mathbf{i}$ .	$\mathbf{e}_1$ is a list and $\text{type}(\text{FEEL}(e_2, \mathbf{s}'))$ is boolean
56	$e_1[e_2]$	$[\mathbf{e}_1]$ if $\text{FEEL}(e_2, \mathbf{s}')$ is <b>true</b> , where $\mathbf{s}'$ is the scope $\mathbf{s}$ with a special first context containing the context entry ("item", $\mathbf{e}_1$ ) and if $\mathbf{e}_1$ is a context, the special context also contains all the context entries of $\mathbf{e}_1$ . Else [].	$\mathbf{e}_1$ is not a list and not <b>null</b> and $\text{type}(\text{FEEL}(e_2, \mathbf{s}'))$ is boolean

Contexts are defined in Table 52.

**Table 52: Semantics of contexts**

Grammar Rule	FEEL Syntax	Mapped to Domain (scope $\mathbf{s}$ )
59	{ $n_1 : e_1, n_2 : e_2, \dots$ }	{ "n <sub>1</sub> ": FEEL( $e_1, s_1$ ), "n <sub>2</sub> ": FEEL( $e_2, s_2$ ), ... } such that the $s_i$ are all $\mathbf{s}$ with a special first context $c_i$ containing a subset of the entries of this result context. If $c_i$ contains the entry for $n_j$ , then $c_j$ does not contain the entry for $n_i$ .
	{ "n <sub>1</sub> ": $e_1, n_2": e_2, \dots$ }	
56	[ $e_1, e_2, \dots$ ]	[ FEEL( $e_1$ ), FEEL( $e_2$ ), ... ]

### 10.3.2.13 Error Handling

When a built-in function encounters input that is outside its defined domain, the function SHOULD report or log diagnostic information if appropriate, and SHALL return **null**.

### 10.3.3 XML Data

FEEL supports XML Data in the FEEL context by mapping XML Data into the FEEL Semantic Domain. Let  $XE(e, p)$  be a function mapping an XML element  $e$  and a parent FEEL context  $p$  to a FEEL context, as defined in the following tables.  $XE$  makes use of another mapping function,  $XV(v)$ , that maps an XML value  $v$  to the FEEL semantic domain.

XML namespace semantics are not supported by the mappings. For example, given the namespace prefix declarations  $xmlns:p1="http://example.org/foobar"$  and  $xmlns:p2="http://example.org/foobar"$ , the tags  $p1:myElement$  and  $p2:myElement$  are the same element using XML namespace semantics but are different using XML without namespace semantics.

#### 10.3.3.1 Semantic mapping for XML elements (XE)

Table 53,  $e$  is the name of an XML element,  $a$  is the name of one of its attributes,  $c$  is a child element, and  $v$  is a value. The parent context  $p$  is initially empty.

**Table 53: Semantics of XML elements**

XML	context entry in p	Remark
<code>&lt;e /&gt;</code>	" <b>e</b> " : <b>null</b>	empty element → <b>null</b> -valued entry in p
<code>&lt;q:e /&gt;</code>	"q\$ <b>e</b> " : <b>null</b>	namespaces are ignored. Colonized names are changed to legal identifiers.
<code>&lt;e&gt;v&lt;/e&gt;</code>	" <b>e</b> ":XV(v)	unrepeated element without attributes
<code>&lt;e&gt;v<sub>1</sub>&lt;/e&gt; &lt;e&gt;v<sub>2</sub>&lt;/e&gt;</code>	" <b>e</b> ": [ XV(v <sub>1</sub> ), XV(v <sub>2</sub> ) ]	repeating element without attributes
<code>&lt;e a="v"/&gt; &lt;c<sub>1</sub>&gt;v<sub>1</sub>&lt;/c<sub>1</sub>&gt; &lt;c<sub>n</sub>&gt;v<sub>2</sub>&lt;/c<sub>n</sub>&gt;&lt;c<sub>n</sub>&gt;v<sub>3</sub>&lt;/c<sub>n</sub>&gt; &lt;/e&gt;</code>	" <b>e</b> ": { "@ <b>a</b> ": XV(v), " <b>c<sub>1</sub></b> ": XV(v <sub>1</sub> ), " <b>c<sub>n</sub></b> ": [ XV(v <sub>2</sub> ), XV(v <sub>3</sub> ) ] }	attribute names are prefixed with @. An element containing attributes or child elements → context
<code>&lt;e a="v<sub>1</sub>"&gt;v<sub>2</sub>&lt;/e&gt;</code>	" <b>e</b> ": { "@ <b>a</b> ": XV(v <sub>1</sub> ), "\$content": XV(v <sub>2</sub> ) }	v <sub>2</sub> is contained in a generated \$content entry

An entry in the **context entry in p** column such as "**e**" : **null** indicates a context entry with string key "**e**" and value **null**. The context entries are contained by context **p** that corresponds to the containing XML element, or to the XML document itself.

The mapping does not replace namespace prefixes with the namespace IRIs. FEEL requires only that keys within a context be distinct, and the namespace prefixes are sufficient.

### 10.3.3.2 Semantic mapping for XML values (XV)

If an XML document was parsed with a schema, then some atomic values may have a datatype other than string. Table 54 defines how a typed XML value *v* is mapped to FEEL.

**Table 54: Semantics of XML values**

Type of <i>v</i>	FEEL Semantic Domain
number	FEEL( <i>v</i> )
string	FEEL("v")
date	"@ <b>a</b> ": FEEL(date("v"))
dateTime	"@ <b>a</b> ": FEEL(date and time("v"))
time	"@ <b>a</b> ": FEEL(time("v"))
duration	"@ <b>a</b> ": FEEL(duration("v"))

list, e.g. " $v_1 v_2$ "	$[ \text{XV}(v_1), \text{XV}(v_2) ]$
element	$\text{XE}(v)$

### 10.3.3.3 XML example

The following schema and instance are equivalent to the following FEEL:

#### 10.3.3.3.1 schema

```
<xsd:schema xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
  xmlns="http://www.example.org"
  targetNamespace="http://www.example.org"
  elementFormDefault="qualified">
  <xsd:element name="Context">
    <xsd:complexType>
      <xsd:sequence>
        <xsd:element name="Employee">
          <xsd:complexType>
            <xsd:sequence>
              <xsd:element name="salary" type="xsd:decimal"/>
            </xsd:sequence>
          </xsd:complexType>
        </xsd:element>
        <xsd:element name="Customer" maxOccurs="unbounded">
          <xsd:complexType>
            <xsd:sequence>
              <xsd:element name="loyalty_level" type="xsd:string"/>
              <xsd:element name="credit_limit" type="xsd:decimal"/>
            </xsd:sequence>
          </xsd:complexType>
        </xsd:element>
      </xsd:sequence>
    </xsd:complexType>
  </xsd:element>
</xsd:schema>
```

#### 10.3.3.3.2 instance

```
<Context xmlns:tns="http://www.example.org"
  xmlns="http://www.example.org">
  <tns:Employee>
    <tns:salary>13000</tns:salary>
  </tns:Employee>
  <Customer>
    <loyalty_level>gold</loyalty_level>
    <credit_limit>10000</credit_limit>
  </Customer>
  <Customer>
    <loyalty_level>gold</loyalty_level>
    <credit_limit>20000</credit_limit>
```

```

</Customer>
<Customer>
  <loyalty_level>silver</loyalty_level>
  <credit_limit>5000</credit_limit>
</Customer>
</Context>

```

### 10.3.3.3.3 equivalent FEEL boxed context

Context		
tns\$Employee	tns\$salary	13000
Customer	loyalty_level	credit_limit
	gold	10000
	gold	20000
	silver	5000

When a decision model is evaluated, its input data described by an item definition such as an XML Schema element (clause 7.3.2) is bound to case data mapped to the FEEL domain. The case data can be in various formats, such as XML. We can notate case data as an equivalent boxed context, as above. Decision logic can reference entries in the context using expressions such as *Context.tns\$Employee.tns\$salary*, which has a value of 13000.

## 10.3.4 Built-in functions

To promote interoperability, FEEL includes a library of built-in functions. The syntax and semantics of the built-ins are required for a conformant FEEL implementation.

In all of the tables in this section, a superscript refers to an additional domain constraint stated in the corresponding footnote to the table. Whenever a parameter is outside its domain, the result of the built-in is **null**.

### 10.3.4.1 Conversion functions

FEEL supports many conversions between values of different types. Of particular importance is the conversion from strings to dates, times, and durations. There is no literal representation for date, time, or duration. Also, formatted numbers such as *1,000.00* must be converted from a string by specifying the grouping separator and the decimal separator.

Built-ins are summarized in Table 55. The first column shows the name and parameters. A question mark (?) denotes an optional parameter. The second column specifies the domain for the parameters. The parameter domain is specified as one of

- a type, *e.g.* number, string
- any – any element from the semantic domain, including **null**
- not null – any element from the semantic domain, excluding **null**.
- date string – a string value in the lexical space of the date datatype specified by XML Schema Part 2 Datatypes
- time string – either
  - a string value in the lexical space of the time datatype specified by XML Schema Part 2 Datatypes; or
  - a string value that is the extended form of a local time representation as specified by ISO 8601, followed by the

character "@", followed by a string value that is a time zone identifier in the IANA Time Zones Database (<http://www.iana.org/time-zones>)

- date time string – a string value consisting of a date string value, as specified above, optionally followed by the character "T" followed by a time string value as specified above
- duration string – a string value in the lexical space of the xs:dayTimeDuration or xs:yearMonthDuration datatypes specified by the XQuery 1.0 and XPath 2.0 Data Model.

**Table 55: Semantics of conversion functions**

Name(parameters)	Parameter Domain	Description	Example
date( <i>from</i> )	date string	convert <i>from</i> to a date	<i>date</i> ("2012-12-25") – <i>date</i> ("2012-12-24") = <i>duration</i> ("P1D")
date( <i>from</i> )	date and time	convert <i>from</i> to a date (set time components to null)	<i>date</i> ( <i>date and time</i> ("2012-12-25T11:00:00Z")) = <i>date</i> ("2012-12-25")
date( <i>year, month, day</i> )	<i>year, month, day</i> are numbers	creates a date from year, month, day component values	<i>date</i> (2012, 12, 25) = <i>date</i> ("2012-12-25")
date and time( <i>date, time</i> )	<i>date</i> is a date or date time; <i>time</i> is a time	creates a date time from the given date (ignoring any time component) and the given time	<i>date and time</i> ("2012-12-24T23:59:00") = <i>date and time</i> ( <i>date</i> ("2012-12-24"), <i>time</i> ("T23:59:00"))
date and time( <i>from</i> )	date time string	convert <i>from</i> to a date and time	<i>date and time</i> ("2012-12-24T23:59:00") + <i>duration</i> ("PT1M") = <i>date and time</i> ("2012-12-25T00:00:00")
time( <i>from</i> )	time string	convert <i>from</i> to time	<i>time</i> ("23:59:00z") + <i>duration</i> ("PT2M") = <i>time</i> ("00:01:00@Etc/UTC")
time( <i>from</i> )	time, date and time	convert <i>from</i> to time (ignoring date components)	<i>time</i> ( <i>date and time</i> ("2012-12-25T11:00:00Z")) = <i>time</i> ("11:00:00Z")
time( <i>hour, minute, second, offset</i> )	<i>hour, minute, second</i> , are numbers, <i>offset</i> is a days and time duration, or null	creates a time from the given component values	<i>time</i> ("T23:59:00z") = <i>time</i> (23, 59, 0, <i>duration</i> ("PT0H"))
number( <i>from, grouping separator, decimal separator</i> )	string <sup>1</sup> , string, string	convert <i>from</i> to a number	<i>number</i> ("1 000,0", " ", ",") = <i>number</i> ("1,000.0", " ", ".")

string( <i>from</i> )	non-null	convert <i>from</i> to a string	string("1.1") = "1.1" string(null) = null
duration( <i>from</i> )	duration string	convert <i>from</i> to a days and time or years and months duration	date and time("2012-12-24T23:59:00") - date and time("2012-12-22T03:45:00") = duration("P2DT20H14M")  duration("P2Y2M") = duration("P26M")
years and months duration( <i>from, to</i> )	both are date and time	return years and months duration between <i>from</i> and <i>to</i>	years and months duration(date("2011-12-22"), date("2013-08-24")) = duration("P1Y8M")

1. *grouping* SHALL be one of space (' '), comma (','), period ('.'), or null.  
*decimal* SHALL be one of period, comma, or null, but SHALL NOT be the same as the grouping separator unless both are null.  
*from* SHALL conform to grammar rule 37, after removing all occurrences of the grouping separator, if any, and after changing the decimal separator, if present, to a period.

### 10.3.4.2 Boolean function

Table 56 defines Boolean functions.

**Table 56: Semantics of Boolean functions**

Name(parameters)	Parameter Domain	Description	Example
not( <i>negand</i> )	boolean	logical negation	not(true) = false not(null) = null

### 10.3.4.3 String functions

Table 57 defines string functions.

**Table 57: Semantics of string functions**

Name(parameters)	Parameter Domain	Description	Example
substring( <i>string, start position, length?</i> )	string, number <sup>1</sup>	return <i>length</i> (or all) characters in <i>string</i> , starting at <i>start position</i> . 1 <sup>st</sup> position is 1, last position is -1	substring("foobar",3) = "obar" substring("foobar",3,3) = "oba" substring("foobar", -2, 1) = "a"
string length( <i>string</i> )	string	return length of <i>string</i>	string length("foo") = 3

<code>upper case(string)</code>	string	return uppercased <i>string</i>	<i>upper case("aBc4") = "ABC4"</i>
<code>lower case(string)</code>	string	return lowercased <i>string</i>	<i>lower case("aBc4") = "abc4"</i>
<code>substring before(string, match)</code>	string, string	return substring of <i>string</i> before the <i>match</i> in <i>string</i>	<i>substring before("foobar", "bar") = "foo"</i> <i>substring before("foobar", "xyz") = ""</i>
<code>substring after(string, match)</code>	string, string	return substring of <i>string</i> after the <i>match</i> in <i>string</i>	<i>substring after("foobar", "ob") = "ar"</i> <i>substring after("", "a") = ""</i>
<code>replace(input, pattern, replacement, flags?)</code>	string <sup>2</sup>	regular expression pattern matching and replacement	<i>replace("abcd", "(ab) (a)", "[1=\$1][2=\$2]") = "[1=ab][2=jcd"</i>
<code>contains(string, match)</code>	string	does the <i>string</i> contain the <i>match</i> ?	<i>contains("foobar", "of") = false</i>
<code>starts with(string, match)</code>	string	does the <i>string</i> start with the <i>match</i> ?	<i>starts with("foobar", "fo") = true</i>
<code>ends with(string, match)</code>	string	does the <i>string</i> end with the <i>match</i> ?	<i>ends with("foobar", "r") = true</i>
<code>matches(input, pattern, flags?)</code>	string <sup>2</sup>	does the <i>input</i> match the regexp <i>pattern</i> ?	<i>matches("foobar", "^fo*b") = true</i>

- start position* must be a non-zero integer (0 scale number) in the range [-L..L], where L is the length of the string. *length* must be in the range [1..E], where E is L – *start position* if *start position* is positive, and –*start position* otherwise.
- pattern*, *replacement*, and *flags* SHALL conform to the syntax and constraints specified in clause 7.6 of XQuery 1.0 and XPath 2.0 Functions and Operators. Note that where XPath specifies an error result, FEEL specifies a null result.

#### 10.3.4.4 List functions

Table 58 defines list functions.

**Table 58: Semantics of list functions**

Name(parameters)	Parameter Domain	Description	Example
<code>list contains(list, element)</code>	list, any element of the semantic domain including <b>null</b>	does the <i>list</i> contain the <i>element</i> ?	<i>list contains([1,2,3], 2) = true</i>
<code>count(list)</code>	list	return size of <i>list</i>	<i>count([1,2,3]) = 3</i>

$\min(list)$ $\min(c_1, \dots, c_N), N > 1$	(list of) comparable items	return minimum(maximum) item	$\min([1,2,3]) = 1$ $\min(1,2,3) = 1$ $\max([1,2,3]) = 3$ $\max(1,2,3) = 3$
$\sum(list)$ $\sum(n_1, \dots, n_N), N > 1$	(list of) numbers	return sum of numbers	$\sum([1,2,3]) = 6$ $\sum(1,2,3) = 6$
$\text{mean}(list)$ $\text{mean}(n_1, \dots, n_N), N > 1$	(list of) numbers	return arithmetic mean (average) of numbers	$\text{mean}([1,2,3]) = 2$ $\text{mean}(1,2,3) = 2$
$\text{and}(list)$ $\text{and}(b_1, \dots, b_N), N > 1$	(list of) Boolean items	return <i>false</i> if any item is <i>false</i> , else <i>true</i> if all items are <i>true</i> , else <i>null</i>	$\text{and}([false,null,true]) = \text{false}$ $\text{and}(\text{false},\text{null},\text{true}) = \text{false}$ $\text{and}([]) = \text{true}$ $\text{and}(0) = \text{null}$
$\text{or}(list)$ $\text{or}(b_1, \dots, b_N), N > 1$	(list of) Boolean items	return <i>true</i> if any item is <i>true</i> , else <i>false</i> if all items are <i>false</i> , else <i>null</i>	$\text{or}([false,null,true]) = \text{true}$ $\text{or}(\text{false},\text{null},\text{true}) = \text{true}$ $\text{or}([]) = \text{false}$ $\text{or}(0) = \text{null}$
$\text{sublist}(list, start position, length?)$	list, number <sup>1</sup> , number <sup>2</sup>	return list of <i>length</i> (or all) elements of <i>list</i> , starting with <i>list[start position]</i> . 1 <sup>st</sup> position is 1, last position is -1	$\text{sublist}([1,2,3], 1, 2) = [2]$
$\text{append}(list, item\dots)$	list, any element including <b>null</b>	return new <i>list</i> with <i>items</i> appended	$\text{append}([1], 2, 3) = [1,2,3]$
$\text{concatenate}(list\dots)$	list	return new <i>list</i> that is a concatenation of the arguments	$\text{concatenate}([1,2],[3]) = [1,2,3]$
$\text{insert before}(list, position, newItem)$	list, number <sup>1</sup> , any element including <b>null</b>	return new <i>list</i> with <i>newItem</i> inserted at <i>position</i>	$\text{insert before}([1,3],1,2) = [1,2,3]$
$\text{remove}(list, position)$	list, number <sup>1</sup>	<i>list</i> with item at <i>position</i> removed	$\text{remove}([1,2,3], 2) = [1,3]$
$\text{reverse}(list)$	list	reverse the <i>list</i>	$\text{reverse}([1,2,3]) = [3,2,1]$
$\text{index of}(list, match)$	list, any element including <b>null</b>	return ascending list of <i>list</i> positions containing <i>match</i>	$\text{index of}([1,2,3,2],2) = [2,4]$
$\text{union}(list\dots)$	list	concatenate with duplicate removal	$\text{union}([1,2],[2,3]) = [1,2,3]$
$\text{distinct values}(list)$	list	duplicate removal	$\text{distinct values}([1,2,3,2,1]) = [1,2,3]$

<code>flatten(list)</code>	list	flatten nested lists	<code>flatten([[1,2],[[3]], 4]) = [1,2,3,4]</code>
----------------------------	------	----------------------	--

1. *position* must be a non-zero integer (0 scale number) in the range [-L..L], where L is the length of the list
2. *length* must be in the range [1..E], where E is L – *start position* if *start position* is positive, and –*start position* otherwise.

### 10.3.4.5 Numeric functions

Table 59 defines numeric functions.

**Table 59: Semantics of numeric functions**

Name(parameters)	Parameter Domain	Description	Example
<code>decimal(n, scale)</code>	number, number <sup>1</sup>	return <i>n</i> with given <i>scale</i>	$\text{decimal}(1/3, 2) = .33$ $\text{decimal}(1.5, 0) = 2$ $\text{decimal}(2.5, 0) = 2$
<code>floor(n)</code>	number	return greatest integer $\leq n$	$\text{floor}(1.5) = 1$ $\text{floor}(-1.5) = -2$
<code>ceiling(n)</code>	number	return smallest integer $\geq n$	$\text{ceiling}(1.5) = 2$ $\text{ceiling}(-1.5) = -1$

1. Scale is in the range [-6111..6176]

### 10.3.4.6 Decision Table

The parameters of the decision table function correspond to the named cells in the figures in clause 8.2 (and also correspond to the metamodel in clause 8.3). As mentioned in clause 10.3.2.8, some parameters contain single-quoted (literal) unary tests. The semantics of a decision table is specified by first composing these unary tests into simple expressions that are mapped to the semantic domain, and composed into rule matches, then rule hits, and finally the decision table output(s). These compositions are defined in Table 60.

**Table 60: Semantics of decision table**

Parameter name (* means optional)	Domain
input expression list	a list of the N $\geq 0$ input expressions in display order
input values list*	a list of N input values, corresponding to the input expressions. Each list element is a unary tests literal (see below).

outputs*	a name (a string matching grammar rule 27) or a list of M>0 names
output values*	if outputs is a list, then output values is a list of lists of values, one list per output; else output values is a list of values for the one output. Each value is a string.
rule list	a list of R>0 rules. A rule is a list of N input entries followed by M output entries. An input entry is a unary tests literal. An output entry is an expression.
hit policy*	one of: "U", "A", "P", "F", "R", "O", "C", "C+", "C#", "C<", "C>" (default is "U")
default output value*	if outputs is a list, then default output value is a context with entries composed of outputs and output values; else default output value is one of the output values.

Unary tests (grammar rule 17) are used to represent both input values and input entries. An input expression  $e$  is said to *satisfy* an input entry  $t$  (with optional input values  $v$ ), depending on the syntax of  $t$ , as follows:

- grammar rule 17.a: FEEL( $e$  in  $(t)$ )=**true**
- grammar rule 17.b: FEEL( $e$  in  $(t)$ )=**false**
- grammar rule 17.c when  $v$  is not provided: **e != null**
- grammar rule 17.c when  $v$  is provided: FEEL( $e$  in  $(v)$ )=**true**

A rule with input entries  $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_N$  is said to *match* the input expression list  $[e_1, e_2, \dots, e_N]$  (with optional input values list  $[v_1, v_2, \dots, v_N]$ ) if  $e_i$  satisfies  $t_i$  (with optional input values  $v_i$ ) for all  $i$  in  $1..N$ .

A rule is *hit* if it is matched and the hit policy indicates that the matched rule's output value should be included in the decision table result. Each hit results in one output value (multiple outputs are collected into a single context value). Therefore, multiple hits require aggregation.

The hit policy is specified using the initial letter of one of the following boldface policy names.

Single hit policies:

- **Unique** – only a single rule can be matched.
- **Any** – multiple rules can match, but they all have the same output,
- **Priority** – multiple rules can match, with different outputs. The output that comes first in the supplied *output values* list is returned,
- **First** – return the first match in rule order,

Multiple hit policies:

- **Collect** – return a list of the outputs in arbitrary order,
- **Rule order** – return a list of outputs in rule order,
- **Output order** – return a list of outputs in the order of the *output values* list

The Collect policy may optionally specify an *aggregation*, as follows:

- **C+** – return the sum of the outputs
- **C#** – return the count of the outputs
- **C<** – return the minimum-valued output
- **C>** – return the maximum-valued output

The *aggregation* is defined using the following built-in functions specified in clause 10.3.4.4: *sum*, *count*, *minimum*, *maximum*. To reduce complexity, decision tables with compound outputs do not support aggregation and support only the following hit policies: *Unique*, *Any*, *Priority*, *First*, *Collect without operator*, and *Rule order*.

A decision table may have no rule hit for a set of input values. In this case, the result is given by the default output value, or **null** if no default output value is specified. A complete decision table SHALL NOT specify a default output value.

The semantics of a decision table invocation **DTI** are as follows:

1. Every rule in the rule list is matched with the input expression list. Matching is unordered.
2. If no rules match,
  - a. if a default output value *d* is specified, **DTI**=**FEEL(d)**
  - b. else **DTI**=**null**.
3. Else let *m* be the sublist of rules that match the input expression list. If the hit policy is "First" or "Rule order", order *m* by rule number.
  - a. Let *o* be a list of output expressions, where the expression at index *i* is the output expression from rule *m[i]*. The output expression of a rule in a single output decision table is simply the rule's output entry. The output expression of a multiple output decision table is a context with entries composed from the output names and the rule's corresponding output entries. If the hit policy is "Output order", the decision table SHALL be single output and *o* is ordered consistent with the order of the *output values*.
  - b. If a multiple hit policy is specified, **DTI**=**FEEL(aggregation(o))**, where *aggregation* is one of the built-in functions *sum*, *count*, *minimum* as specified in 10.3.4.4
  - c. else **DTI**=**FEEL(o[1])**.

### 10.3.4.7 Sort

Sort a list using an ordering function. For example,

```
sort(list: [3,1,4,5,2], precedes: function(x,y) x < y) = [1,2,3,4,5]
```

**Table 61: Semantics of sort functions**

Parameter name (* means optional)	Domain
list	list of any element, be careful with nulls
precedes	boolean function of 2 arguments defined on every pair of list elements

## 10.4 Relationship of FEEL to DRG and Boxed Expressions

FEEL gives execution semantics to decision models, that is, to a DRG and its associated expressions. Case data is required in order to execute a decision model. Case data is the actual values bound to input data names when the decision model is

evaluated. Case data is not part of the decision model. Without case data, some decision model validation (as described in the metamodel clauses) is possible with only the InputData elements and associated ItemDefinitions.

The case data may be supplied in various formats, but it must be mapped to the FEEL semantic domain (FEEL data) in order to determine the execution semantics. The XML mapping is defined in 10.3.3. Because case data must be mapped to FEEL data, it can always be notated as a FEEL expression, regardless of its actual format. Boxed contexts, lists, and relations are used to notate structured case data.

Decision logic refers to case data using the name of the InputData – i.e., all the InputData elements in a DRG are mapped to FEEL context entries having the same name, whose value is the case data, mapped to FEEL data.

All the decision logic in a DRG will be expressions in the same FEEL context, so they can reference the case data by InputData name.

In order to execute a decision model, all its DRG elements other than Knowledge Sources must have an associated expression as described in Table 62.

**Table 62: Usage of expressions by DRG elements**

DRG Element	Associated Expression
Business Knowledge Model	function or a decision table (parameterized decision logic)
Decision	invocation, decision table, or other expression
Input Data	a FEEL expression representing the case data bound to the Input Data element

Boxed expressions contain other boxed expressions or FEEL expressions described in 10.2.2. FEEL expressions are given meaning by the FEEL Semantics described in 10.3. Boxed expressions are given meaning by mapping them to FEEL expressions. DRGs can also be given meaning (execution semantics) by mapping them to FEEL expressions.

Let  $D$  be a DRG with elements  $d_1, d_2, \dots$ . Each element  $d_i$  has a name  $n_i$  and a decision logic expression  $e'_i$ . If  $d_i$  is a business knowledge model and  $e'_i$  is not a function definition, then  $e'_i$  must be a decision table whose input expressions  $e'^1_i, e'^2_i, \dots$  are valid formal parameters (grammar rule 58). In this case, let  $e_i = \text{function}(e'^1_i, e'^2_i, \dots)e'_i$ . Otherwise, let  $e_i = e'_i$ . The FEEL expression  $E$  for  $D$  is the context  $\{n_1:e_1, n_2:e_2, \dots\}$ , such that:

- the context entries are partially ordered by requirements (e.g. the entry for an Input Data element comes before a Decision that uses it)
- the context entries are partially ordered by name reference (referent first)

In other words, the boxed expressions of some DRG elements refer to other DRG elements by name, and each of those relationships must be reflected as a requirement.

The execution semantics of  $D$  is  $\text{FEEL}(E)$ : a context whose entries include the decision output for every decision in  $D$ .

## 10.5 Metamodel

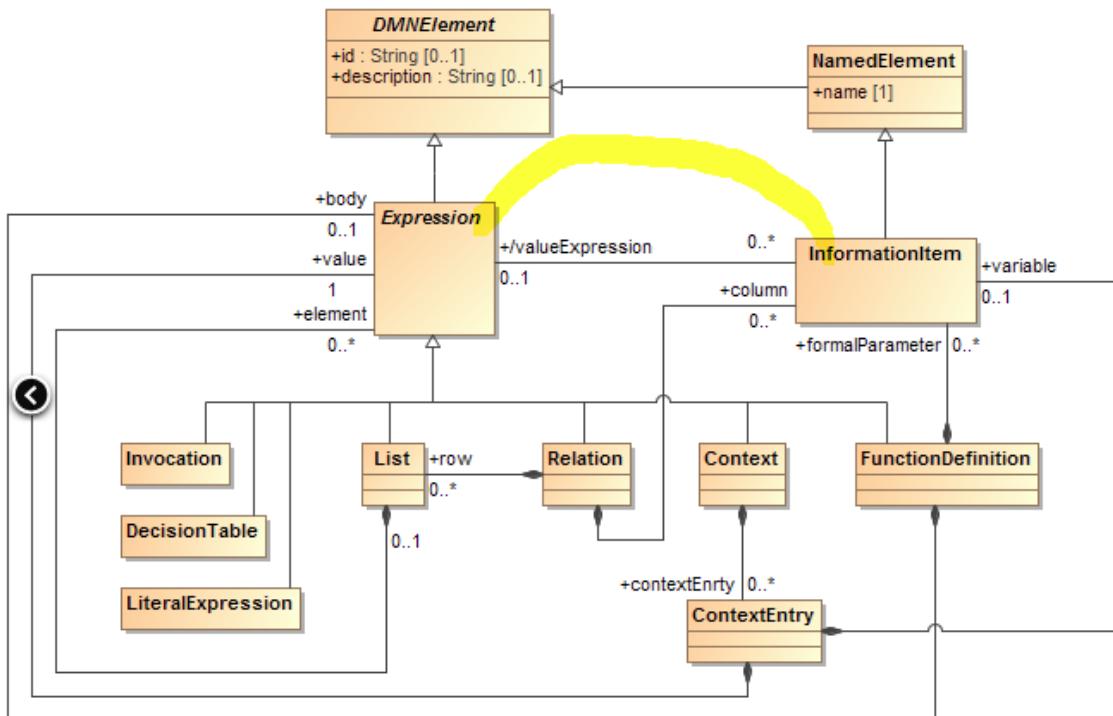
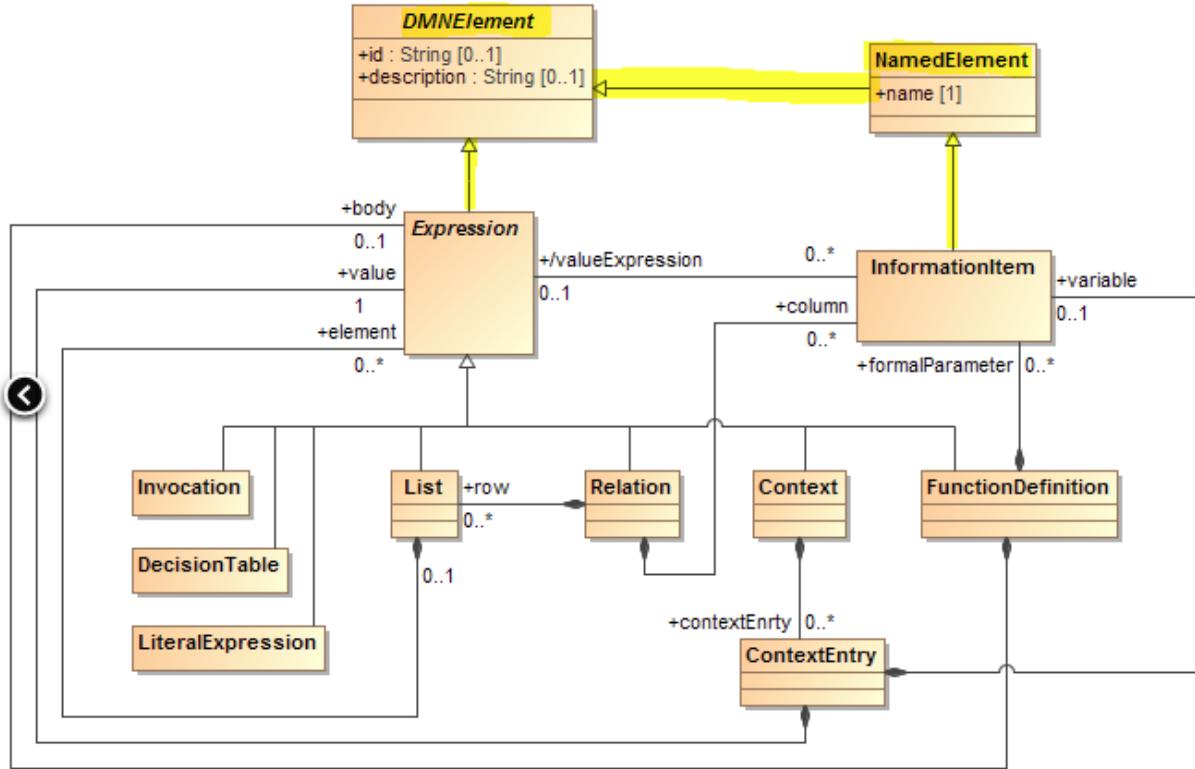


Figure 63: Expression class diagram

The class `Expression` is extended to support the four new kinds of boxed expressions introduced by FEEL, namely: `Context`, `FunctionDefinition`, `Relation` and `List`.

Boxed expressions are Expressions that have a standard diagrammatic representation in **DMN** (see clauses 7.2.1 and 10.2.1). *FEEL contexts, function definitions, relations and lists* SHOULD be modeled as `Context`, `FunctionDefinition`, `Relation` and `List` elements, respectively, and represented as a boxed expression whenever possible; that is, when they are top-level expressions, since an instance of `LiteralExpression` cannot contain another `Expression` element.

### 10.5.1 Context metamodel

A `Context` is composed of any number of `contextEntries`, which are instances of `ContextEntry`.

A `Context` element is represented diagrammatically as a **boxed context** (clause 10.2.1.4). A *FEEL context* (grammar rule 59 and clause 10.3.2.6) SHOULD be modeled as a `Context` element whenever possible.

`Context` inherits all the attributes and model associations from `Expression`. Table 63 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the `Context` element.

**Table 63: Context attributes and model association**

Attribute	Description
<code>contextEntry</code> : <code>ContextEntry</code> [*]	This attribute lists the instances of <code>ContextEntry</code> that compose this <code>Context</code> .

### 10.5.2 ContextEntry metamodel

The class `ContextEntry` is used to model *FEEL context entries* when a *context* is modeled as a `Context` element.

An instance of `ContextEntry` is composed of an optional `variable`, which is an `InformationItem` element whose name is the *key* in the *context entry*, and of a `value`, which is the instance of `Expression` that models the *expression* in the *context entry*.

Table 64 presents the attributes and model associations of the `ContextEntry` element.

**Table 64: ContextEntry attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<code>variable</code> : <code>InformationItem</code> [0..1]	The instance of <code>InformationItem</code> that is contained in this <code>ContextEntry</code> , and whose name is the <i>key</i> in the modeled <i>context entry</i>
<code>value</code> : <code>Expression</code>	The instance of <code>Expression</code> that is the <i>expression</i> in this <code>ContextEntry</code>

### 10.5.3 FunctionDefinition metamodel

A FunctionDefinition has formalParameters and a body. A FunctionDefinition element is represented diagrammatically as a **boxed function**, as described in clause 0. A FEEL *function definition* (grammar rule 57 and clause 10.3.2.12) SHOULD be modeled as a FunctionDefinition element whenever possible.

FunctionDefinition inherits all the attributes and model associations from Expression. Table 65 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the FunctionDefinition element.

**Table 65: FunctionDefinition attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>FormalParameter:</b> InformationItem [*]	This attributes lists the instances of InformationItem that are the parameters of this Context.
<b>body:</b> Expression [0..1]	The instance of Expression that is the body in this FunctionDefinition

### 10.5.4 List metamodel

A List is simply a list of element, which are instances of Expressions. A List element is represented diagrammatically as a **boxed list**, as described in clause 10.2.1.5. A FEEL *list* (grammar rule 56 and clause 10.3.2.12) SHOULD be modeled as a List element whenever possible.

List inherits all the attributes and model associations from Expression. Table 66 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the List element.

**Table 66: List attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description
<b>element:</b> Expression [*]	This attributes lists the instances of Expression that are the elements in this List.

### 10.5.5 Relation metamodel

A Relation is convenient shorthand for a list of similar contexts. A Relation has a column instead of repeated ContextEntry's, and a List is used for every row, with one of the List's expression for each column value.

Relation inherits all the attributes and model associations from Expression. Table 67 presents the additional attributes and model associations of the Relation element.

**Table 67: Relation attributes and model associations**

Attribute	Description

<b>row:</b> List [*]	This attributes lists the instances of List that compose the rows of this Relation.
<b>column:</b> InformationItem [*]	This attributes lists the instances of InformationItem that define the columns in this Relation.

## 10.6 Examples

A good way to get a quick overview of FEEL is by example.

FEEL expressions may reference other FEEL expressions by name. Named expressions are contained in a context. Expressions are evaluated in a scope, which is a list of contexts in which to resolve names. The result of the evaluation is an element in the FEEL semantic domain.

### 10.6.1 Context

Figure 64 shows the boxed context used for the examples. Such a context could arise in several ways. It could be part of the decision logic for a single, complex decision. Or, it could be a context that is equivalent to part of a DRG as defined in clause 10.4, where *applicant*, *requested product*, and *credit history* are input data instances, *monthly income* and *monthly outgoings* are sub-decisions, and *PMT* is a business knowledge model.

applicant	age	51	
	maritalStatus	"M"	
	existingCustomer	false	
	monthly	income	10000
		repayments	2500
		expenses	3000
requested product	product type		"STANDARD LOAN"
	rate		0.25
	term		36
	amount		100000.00
monthly income	applicant.monthly.income		
monthly outgoings	applicant.monthly.repayments, applicant.monthly.expenses		
credit history	record date	event	weight
	date("2008-03-12")	"home mortgage"	100
	date("2011-04-01")	"foreclosure warning"	150
PMT	(rate, term, amount)		
	(amount *rate/12) / (1 - (1 + rate/12)**-term)		

Figure 64: Example context

Notice that there are 6 top-level context entries, represented by the six rows of the table. The value of the context entry named 'applicant' is itself a context, and the value of the context entry named 'monthly' is itself a context. The value of the context entry named 'monthly outgoings' is a list, the value of the context entry named 'credit history' is a relation, *i.e.* a list of two contexts, one context per row. The value of the context entry named 'PMT' is a function with parameters 'rate', 'term', and 'amount'.

The following examples use the above context. Each example has a pair of equivalent FEEL expressions separated by a horizontal line. Both expressions denote the same element in the semantic domain. The second expression, the 'answer', is a literal value.

## 10.6.2 Calculation

```
monthly income * 12
```

---

```
120000
```

The context defines *monthly income* as *applicant.monthly.income*, which is also defined in the context as 10,000. Twelve times the *monthly income* is 120,000.

## 10.6.3 If, In

```
if applicant.maritalStatus in ("M", "S") then "valid" else "not valid"
```

---

```
"valid"
```

The *in* test determines if the left hand side expression satisfies the list of values or ranges on the right hand side. If satisfied, the *if* expression returns the value of the *then* expression. Otherwise, the value of the *else* expression is returned.

## 10.6.4 Sum entries of a list

```
sum(monthly outgoings)
```

---

```
5500
```

*Monthly outgoings* is computed in the context as the list [*applicant.monthly.repayments*, *applicant.monthly.expenses*], or [2500, 3000]. The square brackets are not required to be written in the boxed context.

## 10.6.5 Invocation of user-defined PMT function

The PMT function defined in the context computes the monthly payments for a given interest rate, number of months, and loan amount.

```
PMT(requested product . rate,  
      requested product . term,  
      requested product . amount)
```

---

```
3975.982590125562
```

A function is invoked textually using a parenthesized argument list after the function name. The arguments are defined in the context, and are 0.25, 36, and 100,000, respectively.

## 10.6.6 Sum weights of recent credit history

```
sum(credit history[record date > date("2011-01-01")].weight)
```

---

150

This is a complex "one-liner" that will be useful to expand into constituent sub-expressions:

- built-in: *sum*
  - path expression ending in *.weight*
    - filter: *[record date > date("2011-01-01")]*
      - name resolved in context: *credit history*

An expression in square brackets following a list expression filters the list. *Credit history* is defined in the context as a relation, that is, a list of similar contexts. Only the last item in the relation satisfies the filter. The first item is too old. The path expression ending in *.weight* selects the value of the *weight* entry from the context or list of contexts satisfied by the filter. The *weight* of the last item in the credit history is 150. This is the only item that satisfies the filter, so the sum is 150 as well.

## 10.6.7 Determine if credit history contain a bankruptcy event

```
some ch in credit history satisfies ch.event = "bankruptcy"
```

---

false

The *some* expression determines if at least one element in a list or relation satisfies a test. There are no bankruptcy events in the credit history in the context.

# 11 DMN Example

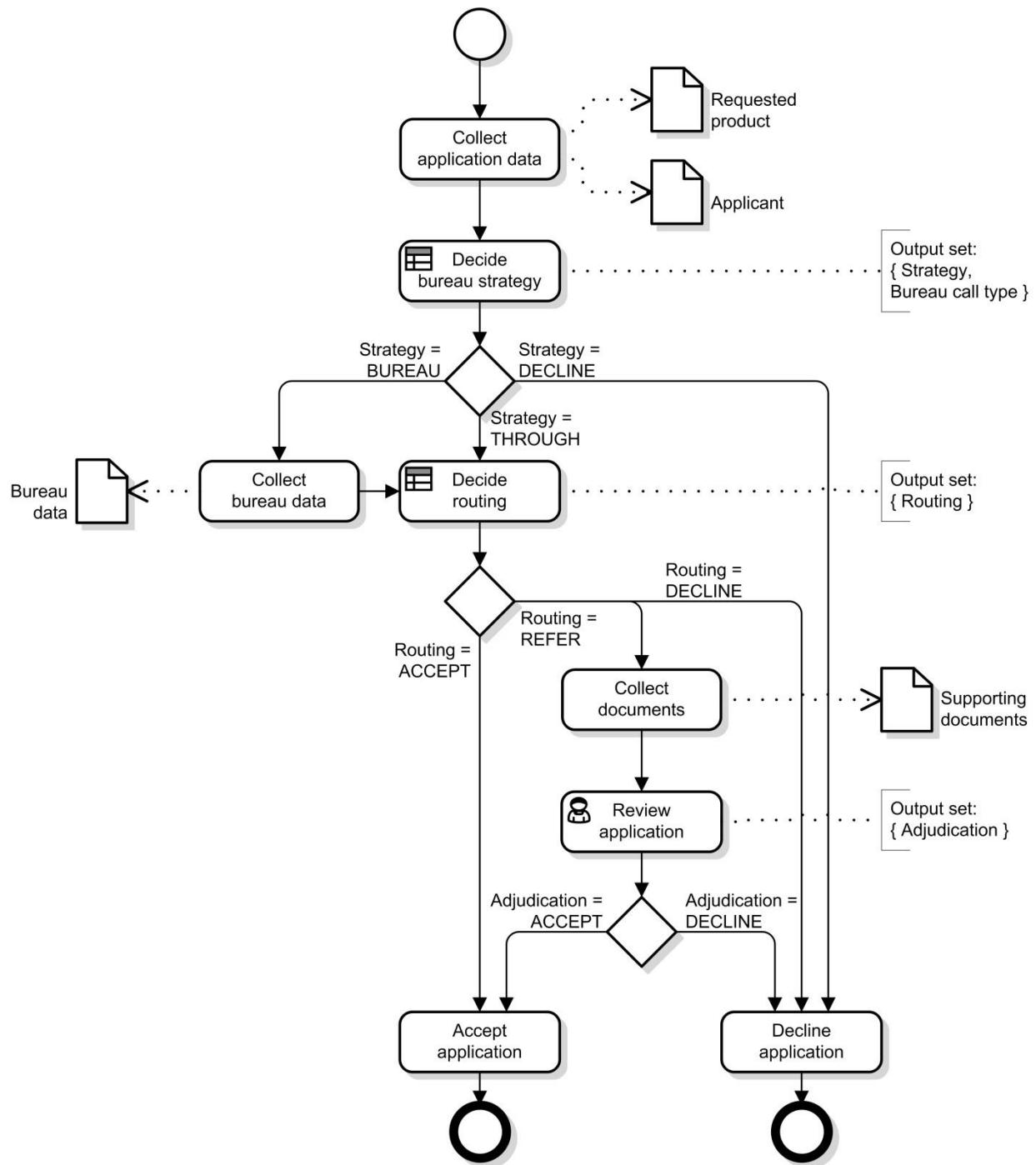
In this section we present an example of the use of **DMN** to model and execute decision-making in a simple business process modeled in **BPMN**, including decisions to be automated in decision services called from the business process management system.

## 11.1 The business process model

Figure 65 shows a simple process for loan originations, modeled in **BPMN 2.0**. The process handles an application for a loan, obtaining data from a credit bureau only if required for the case, and automatically deciding whether the application should be accepted, declined, or referred for human review. If referred, documents are collected from the applicant and a credit officer adjudicates the case. It consists of the following components:

- The **Collect application data** task collects data describing the Requested product and the Applicant (e.g. through an on-line application form).
- The **Decide bureau Strategy** task calls a decision service, passing Requested product and Applicant data. The service returns two decisions: Strategy and Bureau call type.
- A **gateway** uses the value of Strategy to route the case to Decline application, Collect bureau data or Decide routing.
- The **Collect bureau data** task collects data from a credit bureau according to the Bureau call type decision, then the case is passed to Decide routing.
- The **Decide routing** task calls a decision service, passing Requested product, Applicant data and Bureau data (if the Collect bureau data task was not performed, the Bureau data are set to null). The service returns a single decision: Routing.
- A **gateway** uses the value of Routing to route the case to Accept application, Review application or Decline application.
- The **Collect documents** task requests and uploads documents from the applicant in support of their application.
- The **Review application** task allows a credit officer to review the case and decide whether it should be accepted or declined.
- A **gateway** uses the credit officer's Adjudication to route the case to Accept application or Decline application.
- The **Accept application** task informs the applicant that their application is accepted and initiates the product.
- The **Decline application** task informs the applicant that their application is declined.

Note that in this example two decision points (automated as calls to decision services) are represented in **BPMN 2.0** as business rule tasks; the third decision point (which is human decision-making) is represented as a user task.



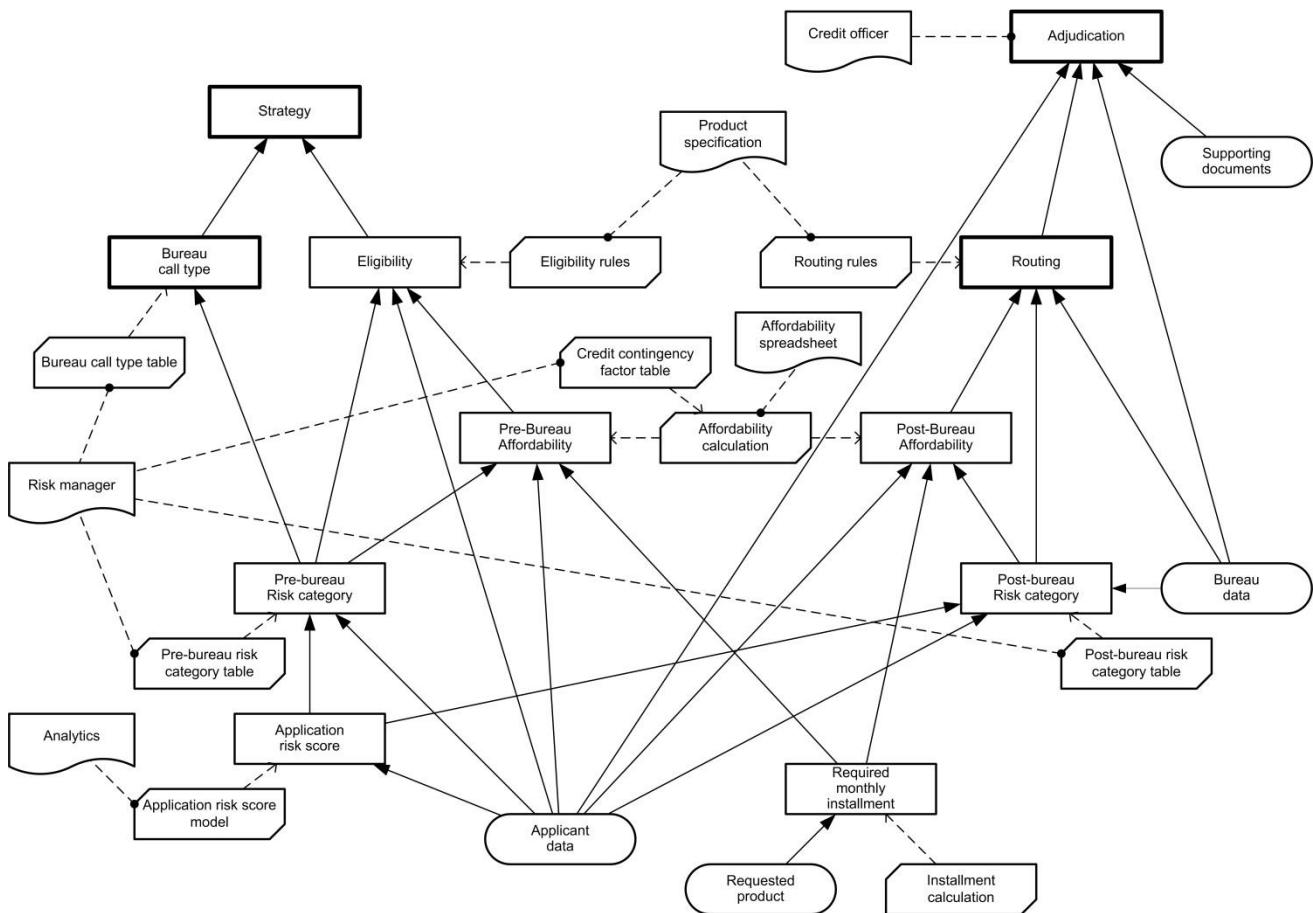
**Figure 65: Example business process**

## 11.2 The decision requirements level

Figure 66 shows a DRD of all the decision-making in this business process. There are four sources of input data for the decision-making (Requested product, Applicant data, Bureau data and Supporting documents), and four decisions whose

results are used in the business process (Strategy, Bureau call type, Routing and Adjudication). Between the two are intermediate decisions: evaluations of risk, affordability and eligibility. Notable features of this DRD include:

- It covers both automated and human decision-making
  - Some decisions (e.g. Pre-bureau risk category) and input data (e.g. Applicant data) are required by multiple decisions, i.e. the information requirements network is not a tree
  - Business knowledge models (see Affordability calculation) may be invoked by multiple decisions
  - Business knowledge models (see Credit contingency factor) may be invoked by other business knowledge models
  - Some decisions do not have associated business knowledge models
  - Knowledge sources may provide authority for multiple decisions and/or business knowledge models.



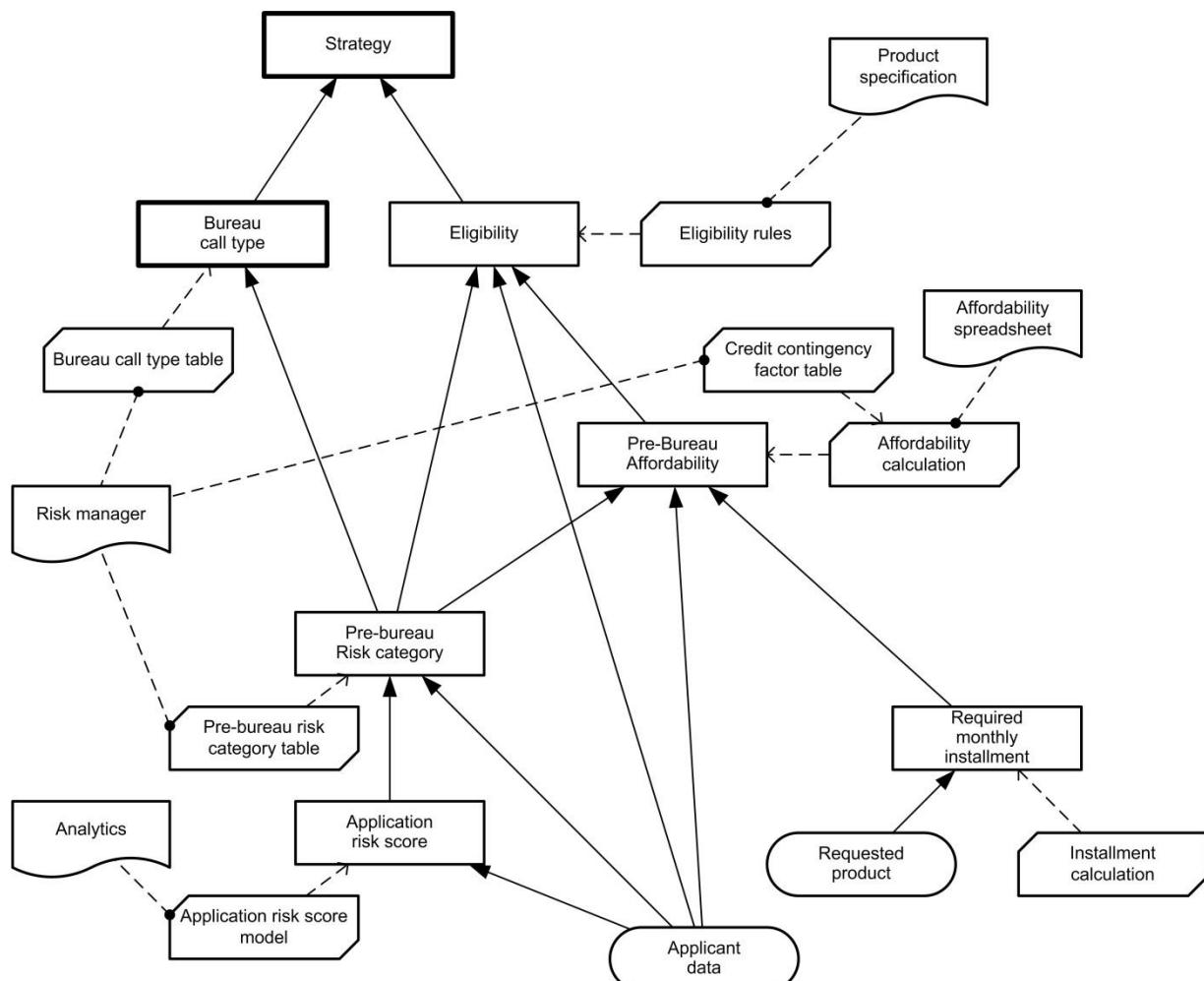
**Figure 66: DRD of all automated decision-making**

It might be considered more convenient to draw separate (but overlapping) DRDs for the three decision points:

- Figure 67 shows the DRD of the decisions required for the Decide bureau strategy decision point, i.e. the requirements subgraph of the Strategy and Bureau call type decisions. These are decisions to be automated through encapsulation in a decision service called at this point, and therefore need their logic to be specified completely.

- Figure 68 shows the DRD for the Decide routing decision point, i.e. the requirements subgraph of the Routing decision. These are also decisions automated with a decision service, and therefore need their logic to be specified completely. Note that some elements appear in both Figure 67 and Figure 68.
  - Figure 69 shows the DRD for the Review application decision point, i.e. the requirements subgraph of the Adjudication decision. This is a human decision and has no associated specification of decision logic, but the DRD indicates that the Credit officer takes into account the results of the automated Routing decision along with the case data, including the Supporting documents. (The requirements subgraph of the Routing decision has been hidden in this DRD.)

All four DRDs – Figure 66, Figure 67, Figure 68 and Figure 69 – are views of the same DRG.



**Figure 67: DRD for Decide bureau strategy decision point**

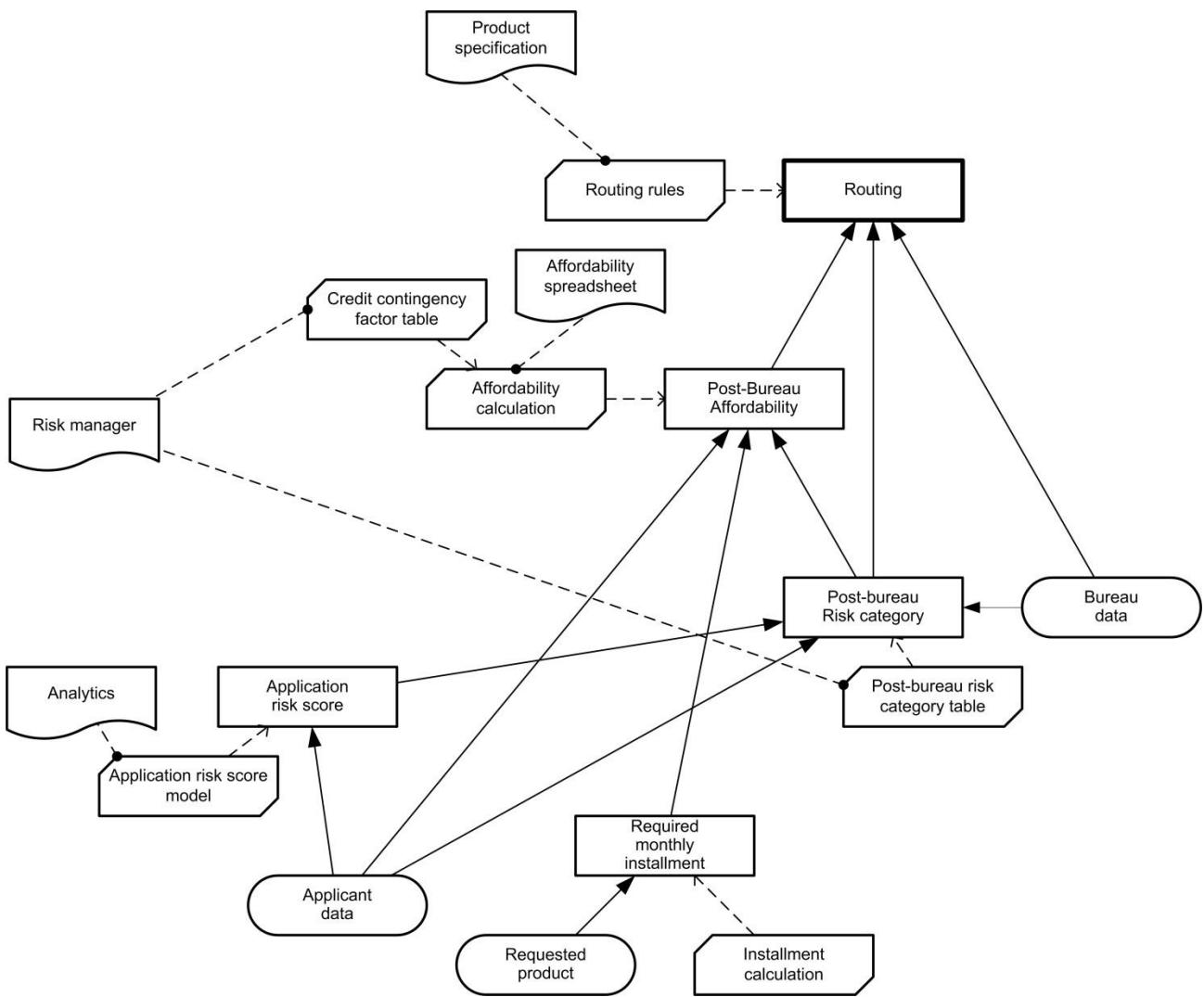


Figure 68: DRD for Decide routing decision point

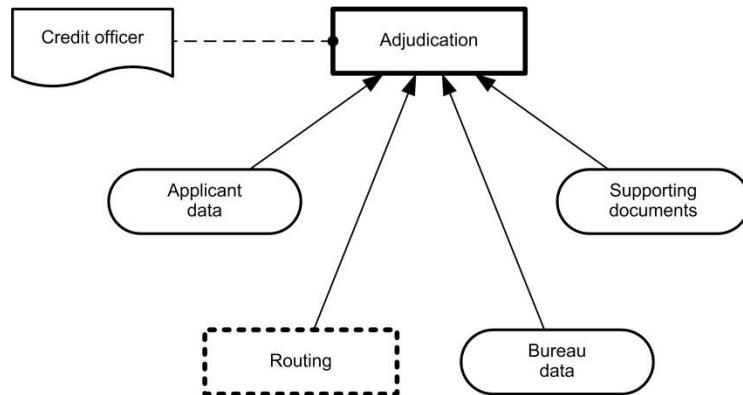


Figure 69: DRD for Review application decision point

The DRG depicted in these DRDs shows dependencies between the following decisions:

- The **Strategy** decision, requiring the Bureau call type and Pre-bureau eligibility decisions, invokes the Strategy table shown in Figure 70 (without that table being encapsulated in a business knowledge model)
- The **Bureau call type** decision, requiring the Pre-bureau risk category decision, invokes the Bureau call type table shown in Figure 72
- The **Eligibility** decision, requiring Applicant data and the Pre-bureau risk category and Pre-bureau affordability decisions, invokes the Eligibility rules shown in Figure 74
- The **Pre-bureau affordability** decision, requiring Applicant data and the Pre-bureau risk category and Required monthly installment decisions, invokes the Affordability calculation boxed expression shown in Figure 85, which in turn invokes the Credit contingency factor table shown in Figure 86
- The **Pre-bureau risk category** decision, requiring Applicant data and the Application risk score decision, invokes the Pre-bureau risk category table shown in Figure 76
- The **Application risk score** decision, requiring Applicant data, invokes the score model shown in Figure 78
- The **Routing** decision, requiring Bureau data and the Post-bureau affordability and Post-bureau risk category decisions, invokes the Routing rules shown in Figure 80
- The **Post-bureau affordability** decision, requiring Applicant data and the Post-bureau risk score and Required monthly installment decisions, invokes the Affordability calculation boxed expression shown in Figure 85, which in turn invokes the Credit contingency factor table shown in Figure 86
- The **Post-bureau risk category** decision, requiring Applicant and Bureau data and the Application risk score decision, invokes the Post-bureau risk category table shown in Figure 82.
- The **Required monthly installment** decision, requiring Requested product data, invokes the Installment calculation boxed expression shown in Figure 88.
- The **Adjudication decision** requiring Applicant data, Bureau data, Supporting documents, and the Routing decision, has no associated decision logic.

### 11.3 The decision logic level

The DRG in Figure 66 is defined in more detail in the following specifications of the value expressions associated with decisions and business knowledge models:

- The **Strategy** decision logic (Figure 70) defines a complete, unique-hit decision table deriving Strategy from Eligibility and Bureau Call Type.
- The **Bureau Call Type** decision logic (shown as a boxed invocation in Figure 71) invokes the Bureau call type table, passing the output of the Pre-bureau risk category decision as the Pre-Bureau Risk Category parameter.
- The **Bureau call type table** decision logic (Figure 72) defines a complete, unique-hit decision table deriving Bureau Call Type from Pre-Bureau Risk Category.
- The **Eligibility** decision logic (shown as a boxed invocation in Figure 73) invokes the Eligibility rules business knowledge model, passing Applicant data . Age as the Age parameter, the output of the Pre-bureau risk category decision as the Pre-Bureau Risk Category parameter, and the output of the Pre-bureau affordability decision as the Pre-Bureau Affordability parameter.
- The **Eligibility Rules** decision logic (Figure 74) defines a complete, priority-ordered single hit decision table deriving Eligibility from Pre-Bureau Risk Category, Pre-Bureau Affordability and Age.

- The **Pre-Bureau Risk Category** decision logic (shown as a boxed invocation in Figure 75) invokes the Pre-bureau risk category table business knowledge model, passing Applicant data . ExistingCustomer as the Existing Customer parameter and the output of the Application risk score decision as the Application Risk Score parameter.
- The **Pre-Bureau Risk Category Table** decision logic (Figure 76) defines a complete, unique-hit decision table deriving Pre-Bureau Risk Category from Existing Customer and Application Risk Score.
- The **Application Risk Score** decision logic (shown as a boxed invocation in Figure 77) invokes the Application risk score model business knowledge model, passing Applicant data . Age as the Age parameter, Applicant data . MaritalStatus as the Marital Status parameter and Applicant data . EmploymentStatus as the Employment Status parameter.
- The **Application Risk Score Model** decision logic (Figure 78) defines a complete, no-order multiple-hit table with aggregation, deriving Application risk score from Age, Marital Status and Employment Status, as the sum of the Partial scores of all matching rows (this is therefore a predictive scorecard represented as a decision table).
- The **Routing** decision logic (shown as a boxed invocation in Figure 79) invokes the Routing rules business knowledge model, passing Bureau data . Bankrupt as the Bankrupt parameter, Bureau data . CreditScore as the Credit Score parameter, the output of the Post-bureau risk category decision as the Post-Bureau Risk Category parameter, and the output of the Post-bureau affordability decision as the Post-Bureau Affordability parameter. Note that if Bureau data is null (due to the THROUGH strategy bypassing the Collect bureau data task) the Bankrupt and Credit Score parameters will be null.
- The **Routing Rules** decision logic (Figure 80) defines a complete, priority-ordered single hit decision table deriving Routing from Post-Bureau Risk Category, Post-Bureau Affordability, Bankrupt and Credit Score.
- The **Post-Bureau Risk Category** decision logic (shown as a boxed invocation in Figure 81) invokes the Post-bureau risk category business knowledge model, passing Applicant data . ExistingCustomer as the Existing Customer parameter, Bureau data . CreditScore as the Credit Score parameter, and the output of the Application risk score decision as the Application Risk Score parameter. Note that if Bureau data is null (due to the THROUGH strategy bypassing the Collect bureau data task) the Credit Score parameter will be null.
- The **Post-bureau risk category table** decision logic (Figure 82) defines a complete, unique-hit decision table deriving Post-Bureau Risk Category from Existing Customer, Application Risk Score and Credit Score.
- The **Pre-bureau Affordability** decision logic (shown as a boxed invocation in Figure 83) invokes the Affordability calculation business knowledge model, passing Applicant data . Monthly . Income as the Monthly Income parameter, Applicant data . Monthly . Repayments as the Monthly Repayments parameter, Applicant data . Monthly . Expenses as the Monthly Expenses parameter, the output of the Pre-bureau risk category decision as the Risk Category parameter, and the output of the Required monthly installment decision as the Required Monthly Installment parameter.
- The **Post-bureau affordability** decision logic (shown as a boxed invocation in Figure 84) invokes the Affordability calculation business knowledge model, passing Applicant data . Monthly . Income as the Monthly Income parameter, Applicant data . Monthly . Repayments as the Monthly Repayments parameter, Applicant data . Monthly . Expenses as the Monthly Expenses parameter, the output of the Post-bureau risk category decision as the Risk Category parameter, and the output of the Required monthly installment decision as the Required Monthly Installment parameter.
- The **Affordability calculation** decision logic (Figure 85) defines a boxed function deriving Affordability from Monthly Income, Monthly Repayments, Monthly Expenses and Required Monthly Installment. One step in this calculation derives Credit contingency factor by invoking the Credit contingency factor table business knowledge model, passing the output of the Risk category decision as the Risk Category parameter.
- The **Credit contingency factor table** decision logic (Figure 86) defines a complete, unique-hit decision table deriving Credit contingency factor from Risk Category.
- The **Required monthly installment** decision logic (shown as a boxed invocation in Figure 87) invokes the Installment calculation business knowledge model, passing Requested product . ProductType as the Product Type

parameter, Requested product . Rate as the Rate parameter, Requested product . Term as the Term parameter, and Requested product . Amount as the Amount parameter.

- The **Installment calculation** decision logic (Figure 88) defines a boxed function deriving monthly installment from Product Type, Rate, Term and Amount. One step in this calculation invokes an external function PMT, equivalent to the PMT calculation defined in Figure 64.

Strategy			
UC	Eligibility	Bureau Call Type	Strategy
1	<i>INELIGIBLE</i>	-	<i>DECLINE</i>
2		<i>FULL, MINI</i>	<i>BUREAU</i>
3	<i>ELIGIBLE</i>	<i>NONE</i>	<i>THROUGH</i>

Figure 70: Strategy decision logic

Bureau call type	
Bureau call type table	
Pre-Bureau Risk Category	Pre-Bureau Risk Category

Figure 71: Bureau Call Type decision logic

Bureau call type table		
UC	Pre-Bureau Risk Category	Bureau Call Type
1	<i>HIGH, MEDIUM</i>	<i>FULL</i>
2	<i>LOW</i>	<i>MINI</i>
3	<i>VERY LOW, DECLINE</i>	<i>NONE</i>

Figure 72: Bureau call type table decision logic

Eligibility	
Eligibility rules	
Age	Applicant data . Age
Pre-Bureau Risk Category	Pre-bureau risk category
Pre-Bureau Affordability	Pre-bureau affordability

Figure 73: Eligibility decision logic

Eligibility rules		Pre-Bureau Affordability	Age	Eligibility
PC	Pre-Bureau Risk Category			<i>INELIGIBLE, ELIGIBLE</i>
1	<i>DECLINE</i>	-	-	<i>INELIGIBLE</i>
2	-	false	-	<i>INELIGIBLE</i>
3	-	-	< 18	<i>INELIGIBLE</i>
4	-	-	-	<i>ELIGIBLE</i>

Figure 74: Eligibility rules decision logic

Pre-bureau risk category	
Pre-bureau risk category table	
Existing Customer	Applicant data . ExistingCustomer
Application Risk Score	Application risk score

Figure 75: Pre-Bureau Risk Category decision logic

Pre-bureau risk category table			
UC	Existing Customer	Application Risk Score	Pre-Bureau Risk Category
1	false	< 100	HIGH
2		[100..120[	MEDIUM
3		[120..130]	LOW
4		> 130	VERY LOW
5	true	< 80	DECLINE
6		[80..90]	HIGH
7		[90..110]	MEDIUM
8		> 110	LOW

Figure 76: Pre-bureau risk category table decision logic

Application risk score	
Application risk score model	
Age	Applicant data . Age
Marital Status	Applicant data . MaritalStatus
Employment Status	Applicant data . EmploymentStatus

Figure 77: Application Risk Score decision logic

Application risk score model				
C+	Age	Marital Status	Employment Status	Partial score
	[18..120]	S, M	UNEMPLOYED, EMPLOYED, SELF-EMPLOYED, STUDENT	
1	[18..21]	-	-	32
2	[22..25]	-	-	35
3	[26..35]	-	-	40
4	[36..49]	-	-	43
5	>=50	-	-	48
6	-	S	-	25
7	-	M	-	45
8	-	-	UNEMPLOYED	15
9	-	-	STUDENT	18
10	-	-	EMPLOYED	45
11	-	-	SELF-EMPLOYED	36

Figure 78: Application risk score model decision logic

Routing	
Routing rules	
Bankrupt	Bureau data . Bankrupt
Credit Score	Bureau data . CreditScore
Post-Bureau Risk Category	Post-bureau risk category
Post-Bureau Affordability	Post-bureau affordability

Figure 79: Routing decision logic

Routing rules		Post-Bureau Risk Category	Post-Bureau Affordability	Bankrupt	Credit Score	Routing
PC					null, [0..999]	DECLINE, REFER, ACCEPT
1	-	false	-	-	-	DECLINE
2	-	-	true	-	-	DECLINE
3	HIGH	-	-	-	-	REFER
4	-	-	-	-	< 580	REFER
5	-	-	-	-	-	ACCEPT

Figure 80: Routing rules decision logic

Post-bureau risk category	
Post-bureau risk category table	
Existing Customer	Applicant data . ExistingCustomer
Credit Score	Bureau data . CreditScore
Application Risk Score	Application risk score

Figure 81: Post-Bureau Risk Category decision logic

Post-bureau risk category table				
UC	Existing Customer	Application Risk Score	Credit Score	Post-Bureau Risk Category
1	false	< 120	< 590	HIGH
2			[590..610]	MEDIUM
3			> 610	LOW
4		[120..130]	< 600	HIGH
5			[600..625]	MEDIUM
6			> 625	LOW
7			-	VERY LOW
8	true	<= 100	< 580	HIGH
9			[580..600]	MEDIUM
10			> 600	LOW
11		> 100	< 590	HIGH
12			[590..615]	MEDIUM
13			> 615	LOW

Figure 82: Post-bureau risk category table decision logic

Pre-bureau affordability	
Affordability calculation	
Monthly Income	Applicant data . Monthly . Income
Monthly Repayments	Applicant data . Monthly . Repayments
Monthly Expenses	Applicant data . Monthly . Expenses
Risk Category	Pre-bureau risk category
Required Monthly Installment	Required monthly installment

Figure 83: Pre-Bureau Affordability decision logic

Post-bureau affordability	
Affordability calculation	
Monthly Income	Applicant data . Monthly . Income
Monthly Repayments	Applicant data . Monthly . Repayments
Monthly Expenses	Applicant data . Monthly . Expenses
Risk Category	Post-bureau risk category
Required Monthly Installment	Required monthly installment

**Figure 84: Post-Bureau Affordability decision logic**

Affordability calculation			
(Monthly Income, Monthly Repayments, Monthly Expenses, Risk Category, Required Monthly Installment)			
Disposable Income	Monthly Income – (Monthly Repayments + Monthly Expenses)		
Credit Contingency Factor	Credit contingency factor table		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Risk Category</td><td>Risk Category</td></tr> </table>	Risk Category	Risk Category
Risk Category	Risk Category		
Affordability	if Disposable Income * Credit Contingency Factor > Required Monthly Installment then true else false		
Affordability			

**Figure 85: Affordability calculation decision logic**

Credit contingency factor table		
UC	Risk Category	Credit Contingency Factor
1	<i>HIGH, DECLINE</i>	0.6
2	<i>MEDIUM</i>	0.7
3	<i>LOW, VERY LOW</i>	0.8

**Figure 86: Credit contingency factor table decision logic**

Required monthly installment	
Installment calculation	
Product Type	Requested product . ProductType
Rate	Requested product . Rate
Term	Requested product . Term
Amount	Requested product . Amount

Figure 87: Required Monthly Installment decision logic

Installment calculation	
(Product Type, Rate, Term, Amount)	
Monthly Fee	if Product Type = "STANDARD LOAN" then 20.00 else if Product Type = "SPECIAL LOAN" then 25.00 else null
Monthly Repayment	PMT(Rate, Term, Amount)
Monthly Repayment + Monthly Fee	

Figure 88: Installment calculation decision logic

## 11.4 Executing the Decision Model

In order to execute a decision model, case data must be bound to the input data, much as an invocation binds arguments to function parameters. The binding of case data to input data, however, is not part of the decision model, unlike the invocation that specifies how a decision's requirement inputs bind to the parameters of that decision's required knowledge.

FEEL allows contexts and other expressions to be used to represent case data (see also clauses 10.3.3.3 and 10.6.1). Input data is associated with an item definition (clause 7.3.2), and the case data must have the same type and other constraints specified by the item definition. Case data must be mapped to the FEEL domain. For example, XML instance data is mapped to the FEEL domain as described in clause 10.3.3.

For convenience, we will specify case data using boxed expressions instead of XML. Figure 89, Figure 90 and Figure 91 show boxed contexts defining case data for Applicant data, Requested product and Bureau data.

Applicant data		
Age	51	
MaritalStatus	<i>M</i>	
EmploymentStatus	<i>EMPLOYED</i>	
ExistingCustomer	false	
Monthly	Income	10,000.00
	Repayments	2,500.00
	Expenses	3,000.00

Figure 89: Applicant Data input data sample

Requested product	
ProductType	<i>STANDARD LOAN</i>
Rate	0.08
Term	36
Amount	100,000.00

Figure 90: Requested Product input data sample

Bureau data	
Bankrupt	false
CreditScore	600

Figure 91: Bureau Data input data sample

When the decision model is executed with this case data, the result is a context that includes the entries shown in Figure 92.

Strategy	<i>THROUGH</i>
Bureau Call Type	<i>NONE</i>
Routing	<i>ACCEPT</i>

Figure 92: Result of executing the decision model

# 12 Exchange formats

## 12.1 Interchanging Incomplete Models

It is common for **DMN** models to be interchanged before they are complete. This occurs frequently when doing iterative modeling, where one user (such as a knowledge source expert or business user) first defines a high-level model and then passes it on to another person to complete or refine the model.

Such "incomplete" models are ones in which not all of the mandatory model attributes have been filled in yet or the cardinality of the lower bound of attributes and associations has not been satisfied.

XMI allows for the interchange of such incomplete models. In **DMN**, we extend this capability to interchange of XML files based on the **DMN** XML-Schema. In such XML files, implementers are expected to support this interchange by:

- Disregarding missing attributes that are marked as "required" in the **DMN** XML-Schema.
- Reducing the lower bound of elements with "minOccurs" greater than 0.

## 12.2 Machine Readable Files

All machine-readable files, including XSD and XMI files, can be found in OMG Document [tbd], which is a flat zip file.

- For the **DMN** XMI Model, the main file is DMN.xmi.
- For the **DMN** XSD Interchange, supporting Conformance Levels 1, 2, and 3, the main file is DMN.xsd.

## 12.3 XSD

### 12.3.1 Document Structure

A domain-specific set of model elements is interchanged in one or more **DMN** files. The root element of each file SHALL be <DMN:Definitions>. The set of files SHALL be self-contained, i.e. all definitions that are used in a file SHALL be imported directly or indirectly using the <DMN:Import> element.

Each file SHALL declare a “namespace” that MAY differ between multiple files of one model.

**DMN** files MAY import non-**DMN** files (such as XSDs and PMMLs) if the contained elements use external definitions.

### 12.3.2 References within the DMN XSD

All the **DMN** elements that may need be referenced contain IDs and within the **BPMN** XSD, references to elements are expressed via these IDs. The XSD IDREF type is the traditional mechanism for referencing by IDs, however it can only reference an element within the same file. The **DMN** XSD supports referencing by ID, across files, by utilizing an href attribute whose value must be a valid URI reference [RFC 3986] where the path components may be absolute or relative, the reference has no query component, and the fragment consists of the value of the id of the referenced **DMN** element.

For example, consider the following Decision:

```
<Decision name="Pre-Bureau Risk Category" id="prebureauriskDec01">...</Decision>
```

When this Decision is referenced, e.g. by an InformationRequirement in a Decision that is defined in another file, the reference could take the following form:

```
<requiredDecision  
href="http://www.example.org/Definitions01.xml#prebureauriskDec01"/>
```

where “<http://www.example.org/Definitions01.xml>” is an URI reference to the XML document in which the “Pre-Bureau Risk Category” Decision is defined (e.g. the value of the locationURI attribute in the corresponding Import element), and “prebureauriskDec01” is the value of the id attribute for the Decision.

If the path component in the URI reference is relative, the base URI against which the relative reference is applied is determined as specified in [RFC 3986]. According to that specification, “*if no base URI is embedded and the representation is not encapsulated within some other entity, then, if a URI was used to retrieve the representation, that URI shall be considered the base URI*” ([RFC 3986], section 5.1.3). That is, if the reference is not in the scope of an `xml:base` attribute [XBASE], a value of the `href` attribute that contains only a fragment and no path component references a **DMN** element that is defined in the same instance of XML file as the referencing element. In the example below, assuming that the `requiredDecision` element is not in the scope of an `xml:base` attribute, the **DMN** element whose `id` is “prebureauriskDec01” must be defined in the same XML document:

```
<requiredDecision href="#prebureauriskDec01" />
```

The **DMN** XSD utilizes IDREFs wherever possible and resorts to the `href` attribute only when references can span files. In both situations however, the reference is still based on IDs.

Notice that the **BPMN** processes and tasks that use a decision are referenced using the `href` attribute as well: indeed, it is compatible with the system to reference external Process and Task instances in **BPMN 2.0** Definitions, which is also based on IDs.

# ANNEXES

All the Annexes are informative.

Annex A and Annex B discuss issues around the application of **DMN** in combination with **BPMN**, including the use of **DMN** to define the functionality of decision services to be called from tasks defined in **BPMN**. These sections are intended to provide some direction to practitioners but are non-normative.

Annex C provides a non-normative glossary to aid comprehension of the specification.

# Annex A. Relation to BPMN

(Informative)

## 1. Goals of BPMN and DMN

The OMG Business Process Model and Notation standard provides a standard notation for describing business processes as orchestrations of tasks. The success of **BPMN** has provided a major motivation for **DMN**, and business decisions described using **DMN** are expected to be commonly deployed in business processes described using **BPMN**.

All statements pertaining to **BPMN** below are from the OMG document reference 11-01-03 unless otherwise stated.

**BPMN**'s goals are stated in the specification and provide easy comparisons to **DMN**:

- Goal 1: “*The primary goal of **BPMN** is to provide a notation that is readily understandable by all business users, from the business analysts that create the initial drafts of the processes, to the technical developers responsible for implementing the technology that will perform those processes, and finally, to the business people who will manage and monitor those processes. Thus, **BPMN** creates a standardized bridge for the gap between the business process design and process implementation.*” **DMN** users will also be business analysts (designing decisions) and then business users (populating decision models such as decision tables). Technical developers may be responsible for mapping business terms to appropriate data technologies. Therefore **DMN** can also be said to bridge the decision design by a business analyst, and the decision implementation, typically using some decision execution technology,
- Goal 2: “*... To ensure that XML languages designed for the execution of business processes, such as WSBPEL (Web Services Business Process Execution Language), can be visualized with a business-oriented notation.*” It is not a stated goal of **DMN** to be able to visualize other XML languages (such as W3C RIF or OMG PRR); indeed it is expected that **DMN** would provide the MDA specification layer for such languages. It does not preclude however the use of **DMN** (such as decision tables) to represent executable forms (such as production rules).
- Goal 3: “*The intent of **BPMN** is to standardize a business process model and notation in the face of many different modeling notations and viewpoints. In doing so, **BPMN** will provide a simple means of communicating process information to other business users, process implementers, customers, and suppliers.*” Similarly, the intent of **DMN** is to standardize the decision model and notation across the many different implementations of broadly semantically similar models. In so doing, **DMN** will also facilitate the communication of decision information across business communities and tools.

## 2. BPMN Tasks and DMN Decisions

Most **BPMN** diagrams contain some tasks which involve decision-making which can be modeled in **DMN**. These tasks take input data acquired or generated earlier in the process, and produce decision outputs which are used later in the process. Decision outputs may be used in two principal ways:

- They may be consumed in another process task
- They may influence the choice of sequence flows out of a gateway.

In the latter case, decisions are used to determine which subprocesses or tasks are to be executed (in the process sense). As such, **DMN** complements **BPMN** as decision modeling complements process modeling (in the sense of defining orchestrations or work tasks).

For example, Figure 93 shows an example<sup>1</sup> of a **BPMN**-defined process.

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<sup>1</sup> Shipment Process in a Hardware Retailer example, Ch5.1, BPMN 2.0 By Example, June 2010, OMG reference 10-06-02

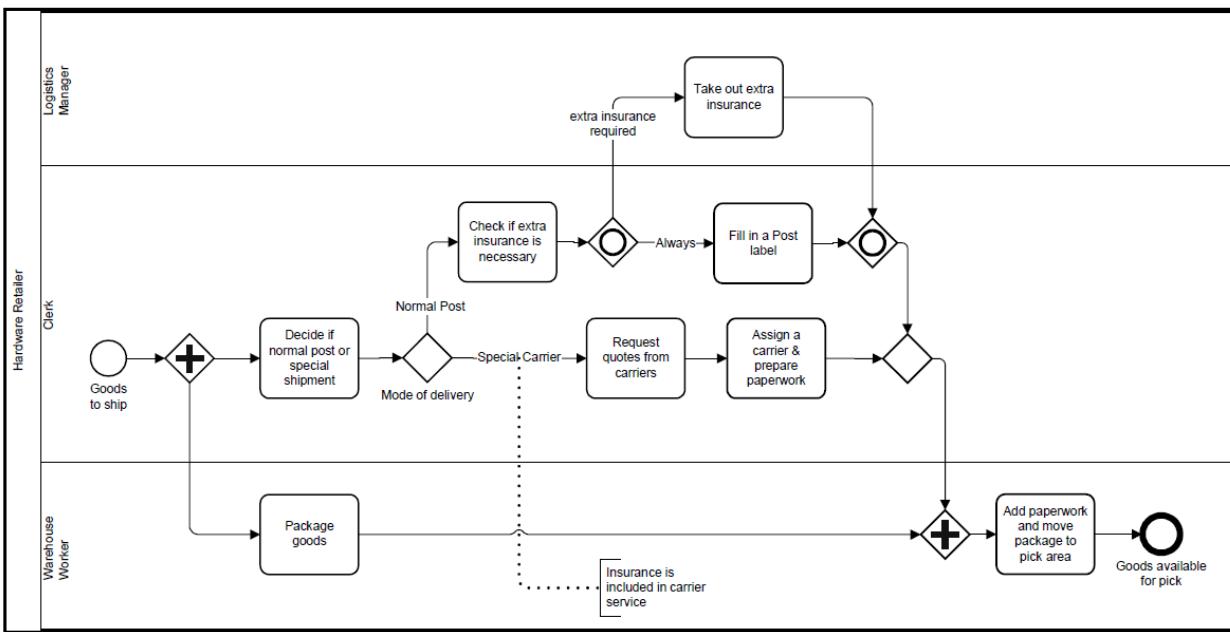


Figure 93: Decision-making in BPMN

Analyzing this we see:

- a task whose title starts with “Decide...” which makes a decision on (whether to use) normal post or special shipment, and which precedes an exclusive gateway using that decision result
- a task whose title starts with “Check...” which makes a decision on whether extra insurance is necessary, which precedes an inclusive gateway for which an additional process path may be executed based on the decision result
- a task whose title starts with “Assign...” which implies a decision to select a carrier based on some selection criteria. The previous task is effectively collecting data for this decision. In an automated system this would probably be a subprocess embedding a decision and some other activities (such as “prepare paperwork”).

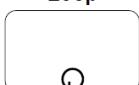
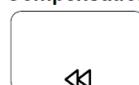
From this example we can see that even a simple business process in **BPMN** may have several decision-making tasks.

### 3. Types of BPMN Tasks relevant to DMN

**BPMN** defines<sup>2</sup> different types of tasks that can be considered for decision-making roles. The relevant tasks are as shown in Table 68:

<sup>2</sup> See ch 10.2.3 in the **BPMN** Specification.

**Table 68: BPMN tasks relevant to DMN**

	Task type(s)	Decision role
1	<b>Loop</b>  <b>Multi-Instance</b>  <b>Compensation</b> 	None explicitly. Although a process for a decision may make iterations or loop (such as production rules executing Run To Completion cycles in a Rete-based rules engine), these are not considered relevant at the business modeling level.
2	Service Task 	Decision tasks will be executed (when automated) by a decision service. However a decision model is not guaranteed to be executed automatically in a business process.
3	User Task 	Decision tasks executed manually as a part of a workflow-oriented business process may be specified as a User Task.
4	Business Rule Task 	The Business Rule Task was defined in <b>BPMN 2</b> as a placeholder for (business-rule-driven) decisions, and is the natural placeholder for a decision task. <i>Note that business rules (as defined in OMG SBVR) can constrain any type of process activity, not just business decisions.</i>
5	Script Task 	Decision tasks may today be encoded using business process script languages.

A future version of **BPMN** may choose to clarify and extend the definitions of task to better match decision modeling requirements and **DMN** – to wit, to define a **BPMN** Decision Task as some task used to make a decision modeled with **DMN**. In the meantime, the Business Rule Task is the most natural way to express this functionality. However, as noted in clauses 5.2.2 and 6.3.6, a Decision in **DMN** can be associated with any Task, allowing for flexibility in implementation.

## 4. Process gateways and Decisions

Process gateways can be considered of 2 types:

1. A gateway that determines a process route or routes based on existing data
2. A gateway that determines a process route or routes based on the outcome of one or more decisions that are determined by some previous task within the process.

In the latter case, a Decision Task (task used to make a decision using **DMN**) may need an extended notation to clarify the relationship of the decision task to the gateway(s) that use it.

## 5. Linking BPMN and DMN Models

**DMN** offers two approaches to linking business process models in **BPMN** with decision models in **DMN**; one normative and the other non-normative:

### a) Associating Decisions with Tasks and Processes

As described in clause 6.3.6, in **DMN 1.0**, the process context for an instance of Decision is defined by its association with any number of `usingProcesses`, which are instances of Process as defined in OMG **BPMN 2**, and any number of `usingTasks`, which are instances of Task as defined in OMG **BPMN 2**. Each decision may therefore be associated with one or more business processes (to indicate that the decision is taken during those processes), and/or with one or more specific tasks (to indicate that the tasks involve making the decision). An implementation SHALL allow these associations to be defined for each decision.

An implementation MAY perform validation over the two (**BPMN** and **DMN**) models, to check, for example, that:

- A Decision is not associated with Tasks that are part of Processes not also associated with the Decision
- A Decision is not associated with Tasks that are not part of any Process associated with the Decision

During development it may be appropriate to associate a Decision only with a Process, but inconsistency between Task and Process associations is not allowed.

Note that this approach allows the relationships between business process models and decision models to be defined and validated, but does not of itself permit the decisions modeled in **DMN** to be executed automatically by processes modeled in **BPMN**.

#### b) Decision Services

One approach to decision automation is described non-normatively in Annex B: the encapsulation of **DMN** Decisions in a “decision service” called from a **BPMN** Task (e.g. a Service Task or Business Rule Task, as discussed in Annex A.3 above). The `usingProcesses` and `usingTasks` properties allow definition and validation of associations between **BPMN** and **DMN**; the definition of decision services then provides a detailed specification of the required interface.

## Annex B. Decision services

(Informative)

One important use of **DMN** will be to define decision-making logic to be automated using “decision services”. A decision service encapsulates a number of decisions and exposes them as a service, which might be consumed (for example) by a task in a **BPMN** process model. When the service is called, with the necessary input data, it returns the outputs of the encapsulated decisions. Any decision service encapsulating a **DMN** decision model will be stateless and have no side effects. It might be implemented, for example, as a web service. **DMN** does not specify how such services should be implemented; this section is to give an indication of the principles which might be followed.

We start with the assumption that the client requires a certain set of decisions to be made, and that the service is created to meet that requirement. The sole function of the decision service is to return the results of evaluating that set of decisions (the “minimal output set”). This requires that the service encapsulate not just the minimal output set but also any decisions in the DRG directly or indirectly required by the minimal output set (the “encapsulation set”). The encapsulation set is the transitive closure of the required decision relation on the minimal output set.

The interface to the decision service will consist of:

- Input: a list of contexts, providing instances of all the Input Data required by the encapsulated decisions
- Output: a context, providing (at least) the results of evaluating all the decisions in the minimal output set, using the provided instance data.

When the service is called, providing the input, it returns the output.

In its simplest form a decision service would always evaluate all decisions in the encapsulation set and return all the results.

For computational efficiency various improvements to this basic interpretation can be imagined, e.g.

- An optional input parameter specifying a list of “requested decisions” (a subset of the encapsulation set). Only the results of the requested decisions would be returned in the output context.
- An optional input parameter specifying a list of “known decisions” (a subset of the encapsulation set), with their results. The decision service would not evaluate these decisions, but would use the provided input values directly.

All such implementation details are left to the software provider.

A decision service is “complete” if it contains decision logic for evaluating all the encapsulated decisions on all possible input data values. A request to the service is “valid” if instances are provided for all Input Data required by those decisions which need to be evaluated, i.e. (in the simple case) all the encapsulated decisions, or (assuming the optional parameters above) any requested decisions which are not already known.

# Annex C. Glossary

(Informative)

## A

Aggregation	The production of a single result from multiple <b>hits</b> on a <b>decision table</b> . DMN specifies four aggregation operators on the Collect hit policy, namely: + (sum), < (min), > (max), # (count). If no operator is specified, the results of the Collect hit policy are returned without being aggregated.
Any	A <b>hit policy</b> for <b>single hit decision tables</b> with overlapping <b>decision rules</b> : under this policy any match may be used.
Authority Requirement	The dependency of one element of a Decision Requirements Graph on another element which provides guidance to it or acts as a source of knowledge for it.

## B

Binding	In an <b>invocation</b> , the association of the parameters of the invoked expression with the input variables of the invoking expression, using a binding formula.
Boxed Context	A form of <b>boxed expression</b> showing a collection of $n$ (name, value) pairs with an optional result value.
Boxed Expression	A notation serving to decompose <b>decision logic</b> into small pieces which may be associated graphically with elements of a <b>DRD</b> .
Boxed Function	A form of <b>boxed expression</b> showing the kind, parameters and body of a function.
Boxed Invocation	A form of <b>boxed expression</b> showing the parameter bindings that provide the context for the evaluation of the body of a <b>business knowledge model</b> .
Boxed List	A form of <b>boxed expression</b> showing a list of $n$ items.
Boxed Literal Expression	A form of <b>boxed expression</b> showing a <b>literal expression</b> .
Business Context Element	An element representing the business context of a decision: either an <b>organisational unit</b> or a <b>performance indicator</b> .
Business Knowledge Model	Some <b>decision logic</b> (e.g. a <b>decision table</b> ) encapsulated as a reusable function, which may be invoked by <b>decisions</b> or by other <b>business knowledge models</b> .

## C

Clause	In a <b>decision table</b> , a clause specifies a subject, which is defined by an input expression or an output domain, and the finite set of the sub-domains of the subject's domain that are
--------	--

	relevant for the piece of <b>decision logic</b> that is described by the decision table.
Collect	A <b>hit policy</b> for <b>multiple hit decision tables</b> with overlapping <b>decision rules</b> : under this policy all matches will be returned as a list in an arbitrary order. An operator can be added to specify a function to be applied to the outputs: see Aggregation.
Completeness Indicator	Indicates whether a <b>decision table</b> produces a result for every possible case. If so (the default) the indicator "C" is optional. If not, the indicator SHOULD read "I".
Context	In <b>FEEL</b> , a map of key-value pairs called <b>context entries</b> .
Context Entry	One key-value pair in a <b>context</b> .
Crosstab Table	An <b>orientation for decision tables</b> in which two <b>input expressions</b> form the two dimensions of the table, and the <b>output entries</b> form a two-dimensional grid.
<b>D</b>	
Decision	The act of determining an <b>output value</b> from a number of <b>input values</b> , using <b>decision logic</b> defining how the output is determined from the inputs.
Decision Logic	The logic used to make decisions, defined in DMN as the <b>value expressions of decisions</b> and <b>business knowledge models</b> and represented visually as <b>boxed expressions</b> .
Decision Logic Level	The detailed level of modeling in DMN, consisting of the <b>value expressions</b> associated with <b>decisions</b> and <b>business knowledge models</b> .
Decision Model	A formal model of an area of decision-making, expressed in DMN as <b>decision requirements</b> and <b>decision logic</b> .
Decision Point	A point in a business process at which decision-making occurs, modeled in BPMN 2.0 as a business rule task and possibly implemented as a call to a <b>decision service</b> .
Decision Requirements Diagram	A diagram presenting a (possibly filtered) view of a <b>DRG</b> .
Decision Requirements Graph	A graph of <b>DRG elements</b> ( <b>decisions</b> , <b>business knowledge models</b> and <b>input data</b> ) connected by <b>requirements</b> .
Decision Requirements Level	The more abstract level of modeling in DMN, consisting of a <b>DRG</b> represented in one or more <b>DRDs</b> .
Decision Rule	In a <b>decision table</b> , a decision rule specifies associates a set of conclusions or results ( <b>output entries</b> ) with a set of conditions ( <b>input entries</b> ).
Decision Service	A software component encapsulating a <b>decision model</b> and exposing it as a service, which might be consumed (for example) by a task in a BPMN process model.

Decision Table	A tabular representation of a set of related input and output expressions, organized into <b>decision rules</b> indicating which <b>output entry</b> applies to a specific set of <b>input entries</b> .
Definitions	A container for all elements of a DMN <b>decision model</b> . The interchange of DMN files will always be through one or more Definitions.
DMN Element	Any element of a DMN <b>decision model</b> : a DRG Element, Business Context Element, Expression, Definitions, Element Collection, Information Item or Item Definition.
DRD	See <b>Decision Requirements Diagram</b> .
DRG	See <b>Decision Requirements Graph</b> .
DRG Element	Any component of a DRG: a <b>decision</b> , <b>business knowledge model</b> , <b>input data</b> or <b>knowledge source</b> .
<b>E</b>	
Element Collection	Used to define named groups of <b>DRG elements</b> within a <b>Definitions</b> .
Expression	A <b>literal expression</b> , <b>decision table</b> or <b>invocation</b> used to define part of the <b>decision logic</b> for a <b>decision model</b> in <b>DMN</b> . Returns a single value when interpreted.
<b>F</b>	
FEEL	The “Friendly Enough Expression Language” which is the default expression language for DMN.
First	A <b>hit policy</b> for <b>single hit decision tables</b> with overlapping <b>decision rules</b> : under this policy the first match is used, based on the order of the <b>decision rules</b> .
Formal Parameter	A named, typed value used in the invocation of a function to provide an <b>information item</b> for use in the body of the function.
<b>H</b>	
Hit	In a <b>decision table</b> , the successful matching of all <b>input expressions</b> of a <b>decision rule</b> , making the conclusion eligible for inclusion in the results.
Hit Policy	Indicates how overlapping <b>decision rules</b> have to be interpreted. A <b>single hit</b> table returns the output of one rule only; a <b>multiple hit</b> table may return the output of multiple rules or an <b>aggregation</b> of the outputs.
Horizontal	An orientation for <b>decision tables</b> in which <b>decision rules</b> are presented as rows; <b>clauses</b> as columns.

## I

Information Item	A <b>DMN element</b> used to model either a <b>variable</b> or a <b>parameter</b> at the <b>decision logic level</b> in DMN <b>decision models</b> .
Information Requirement	The dependency of a <b>decision</b> on an <b>input data</b> element or another <b>decision</b> to provide a <b>variable</b> used in its <b>decision logic</b> .
Input Data	Denotes information used as an input by one or more <b>decisions</b> , whose value is defined outside of the <b>decision model</b> .
Input Entry	An <b>expression</b> defining a condition cell in a <b>decision table</b> (i.e. the intersection of a <b>decision rule</b> and an <b>input clause</b> ).
Input Expression	An <b>expression</b> defining the item to be compared with the <b>input entries</b> of an <b>input clause</b> in a <b>decision table</b> .
Input Value	An <b>expression</b> defining a limited range of expected values for an <b>input clause</b> in a <b>decision table</b> .
Invocation	A mechanism that permits the evaluation of one value expression another, using a number of <b>bindings</b> .
Item Definition	Used to model the structure and the range of values of <b>input data</b> and the outcome of <b>decisions</b> , using a type language such as <b>FEEL</b> or XML Schema.

## K

Knowledge Requirement	The dependency of a <b>decision</b> or <b>business knowledge model</b> on a <b>business knowledge model</b> which must be invoked in the evaluation of its <b>decision logic</b> .
Knowledge Source	An authority defined for <b>decisions</b> or <b>business knowledge models</b> , e.g. domain experts responsible for defining or maintaining them, or source documents from which business knowledge models are derived, or sets of test cases with which the decisions must be consistent.

## L

Literal Expression	Text that represents <b>decision logic</b> by describing how an output value is derived from its input values, e.g. in plain English or using the default expression language <b>FEEL</b> .
--------------------	---

## M

Multiple Hit	A type of <b>decision table</b> which may return <b>output entries</b> from multiple <b>decision rules</b> .
--------------	--

## O

Organisational Unit	A <b>business context element</b> representing the unit of an organization which makes or owns a <b>decision</b> .
---------------------	--

Orientation	The style of presentation of a <b>decision table</b> : horizontal (decision rules as rows; clauses as columns), vertical (rules as columns; clauses as rows), or crosstab (rules composed from two input dimensions).
Output Entry	An <b>expression</b> defining a conclusion cell in a <b>decision table</b> (i.e. the intersection of a <b>decision rule</b> and an output <b>clause</b> ).
Output Order	A <b>hit policy for multiple hit decision tables</b> with overlapping <b>decision rules</b> : under this policy all matches will be returned as a list in decreasing priority order. Output priorities are specified in an ordered list of values.
Output Value	An <b>expression</b> defining a limited range of domain values for an output <b>clause</b> in a <b>decision table</b> .
<b>P</b>	
Performance Indicator	A <b>business context element</b> representing a measure of business performance impacted by a <b>decision</b> .
Priority	A <b>hit policy for single hit decision tables</b> with overlapping <b>decision rules</b> : under this policy the match is used that has the highest output priority. Output priorities are specified in an ordered list of values.
<b>R</b>	
Relation	A form of <b>boxed expression</b> showing a vertical list of homogeneous horizontal <b>contexts</b> (with no result cells) with the names appearing just once at the top of the list, like a relational table.
Requirement	The dependency of one <b>DRG element</b> on another: either an <b>information requirement</b> , <b>knowledge requirement</b> or <b>authority requirement</b> .
Requirement Subgraph	The directed graph resulting from the transitive closure of the <b>requirements</b> of a <b>DRG element</b> ; i.e. the sub-graph of the <b>DRG</b> representing all the decision-making required by a particular element.
Rule Order	A <b>hit policy for multiple hit decision tables</b> with overlapping <b>decision rules</b> : under this policy all matches will be returned as a list in the order of definition of the <b>decision rules</b> .
<b>S</b>	
S-FEEL	A simple subset of <b>FEEL</b> , for <b>decision models</b> that use only simple <b>expressions</b> : in particular, <b>decision models</b> where the <b>decision logic</b> is modeled mostly or only using <b>decision tables</b> .
Single Hit	A type of <b>decision table</b> which may return the <b>output entry</b> of only a single <b>decision rule</b> .

## U

Unique

A **hit policy** for **single hit decision tables** in which no overlap is possible and all **decision rules** are exclusive. Only a single rule can be matched.

## V

Variable

Represents a value that is input to a **decision**, in the description of its **decision logic**, or a value that is passed as a **parameter** to a function.

Vertical

An **orientation** for **decision tables** in which decision rules are presented as columns; clauses as rows.

## W

Well-Formed

Used of a **DRG element** or **requirement** to indicate that it conforms to constraints on referential integrity, acyclicity etc.